

Tunisian envoy arrives

AMMAN (Jordan) — Tunisian Minister of Culture and Information Habib Bouhassira arrived in Amman Friday via Sweden with a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to His Majesty King Hussein. "My visit falls within the framework of cooperation among Arab leaders on Arab and international issues, including the Palestinian question," the Tunisian minister told Piers. The visit follows the meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union leaders. But his visit should have been a success of Tunisia and cannot be seen as a success of Tunisia. He also expressed appreciation for the Arab and friendly countries presented to Tunisia. Upon arrival he was received by Minister of Information Ibrahim Khatib, the Arab League, the Arab League director, undersecretary, and the Tunisian ambassador in Jordan.

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Badran: Jordan keen on maintaining calm on truce line

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that Jordan was keen on maintaining "complete calm" along the demarcation line with Israel and was exerting all efforts to stem infiltration attempts into the occupied territories.

"I'm convinced that such incidents pose dangers not only to Jordan but also to the Arab World at large," said Badran in an interview Thursday with Agence France Presse.

He pointed out that "10 infiltrations and gunfire incidents were reported to have taken place in 1989 in addition to two incidents involving rocket launching" into Israeli-controlled land.

The premier rejected suggestions that infiltration incidents originated in Syria.

Badran, however, noted that this topic could be tackled during his talks with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zohbi, slated to arrive in Amman Monday.

"We feel that Syria is keen on maintaining Jordan's national security as much as Jordan is keen on maintaining that of Syria since two countries form a united front against Israel," Badran added.

Nevertheless, "some elements who are definitely non-Syrians infiltrated at times through the long borders with Syria and then made their way to Israel," he said.

Badran made it clear that infiltration attempts through the demarcation line with Israel could not be blamed solely on Jordan "since one can never control 100 per cent" the 370-kilometre long line.

To him, the responsibility to control the truce lines lies on both sides, especially when taking into account that infiltrators almost always penetrate the highly sophisticated "electronic borders of the enemy without being caught."

Badran also brushed aside suggestions that the resounding victory of Muslim Brotherhood followers in the Nov. 8 elections had adverse effects on Jordan's relations with Syria.

The premier dubbed as "insane" Israeli leaders calling for "Jordan is Palestine" theory.

He lashed out at Jewish immigration into Israel from Eastern bloc countries. "They are ostensibly carrying out this drive under the banner of human rights. So what about the human rights of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in every corner of the globe?" he asked.

Accords with Syria

All Jordanian-Syrian agreements would be reviewed at a meeting of the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which is due to convene in Amman next week, Badran told reporters Thursday.

Speaking to reporters after attending a session by the Upper House of Parliament, Badran said that the meeting would look into several major topics and for which preparation was carried out during a visit to Damascus last week by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz.

Rampaging settlers accused of burning Burin mosque

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Arabists burned down a mosque in the Israeli-occupied West Bank Friday and Palestinians blamed Jewish settlers for the attack.

Residents of the village of Burin, south of Nablus, said the mosque interior was gutted causing more than \$75,000 in damage.

Israel's "civil administration," in an unusual move, announced it would pay to restore the mosque.

Military sources said the army and police were investigating the attack. They declined to comment on the accusation against the settlers.

However, a security source said settlers raided the village the previous day, smashed school windows and scrawled in Hebrew the slogan "Blood for blood."

Villagers said they believed the fire was set by Jewish residents of the nearby Yizhar settlement, who contest ownership of land located between the two communities.

In a previous land dispute, a shepherd from Burin killed an Israeli from another nearby settlement, Bracha, as well as a soldier in December 1988, before being shot dead.

Residents who helped extinguish the fire said copies of the Koran, rugs and furniture were destroyed by the blaze which raged for several hours.

A local Muslim clergyman said the burning of the Koran was an insult and an attack on all Muslims.

In the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian cameraman working for a British television agency was briefly detained after he filmed Israeli police trying to blindfold and gag another Arab journalist.

WTN cameraman Qasem Ali, 33, said Israeli policemen punched, slapped and arrested him after he filmed them blindfolding an Arab journalist working for the UPI news agency with an Arab headress he was wearing.

Both journalists were on their way to cover professional association elections in Gaza Strip.

Military sources said Ali was taken to a police station after refusing to identify himself. He was released later, but his identification papers remained with the police.

Ali insisted he presented his ID card and press credentials when he was asked to do so.

Israeli secret police agents raided Ali's house last week, put four pistols to his head and ordered him to report to their headquarters.

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RAINS, RAINS: Water gushes through an uncovered Amman gutter as heavy rains lashed the Kingdom Friday. The rains also caused frost in the Jordan Valley, damaging crops (see page 3).

Moscow set for talks on Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leaders appeared set Friday to negotiate with moderates in Azerbaijan, six days after President Mikhail Gorbachev ordered troops into Baku to put down what he called a "nationalist revolt."

And radical deputies in the Soviet parliament demanded that the chamber hold an emergency debate on Transcaucasia, saying protracted violence there threatened the Kremlin's perestroika reforms.

Signs emerged of early talks to ease the crisis even as armed police raided the republic's Moscow mission and detained a leader of the Popular Front mass movement.

Reports from Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, indicated that calm was gradually returning Friday to the city where Soviet troops stormed nationalist barricades last weekend, killing more than 100 people.

Militants in feuding Azerbaijan and Armenia have agreed to a ceasefire on two parts of their troubled border and exchanged hostages in Nagorno-Karabakh, focal point of a two-year conflict between the two southern republics.

Sporadic skirmishes turned into virtual civil war this month, with the two sides using helicopters, artillery pieces, tanks and rockets seized from Soviet army units.

The truce at the border, where troops are being deployed along its entire length to prevent further

clashes, came Thursday, apparently setting the scene for further conciliatory moves.

Radical parliamentarians, members of the inter-regional group of progressive deputies in the Soviet congress, said authorities took action "too late" in the simmering conflict.

They proposed an emergency session of the Supreme Soviet legislature to mediate the dispute and called for a deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops sent to restore order in Azerbaijan.

The Caucasus unrest and the government's delayed reaction to it "represent a threat to perestroika," the Kremlin's programme of reforms, deputy Sergei Stankevich said.

The group's declaration said the Azerbaijan government was at fault for losing people's trust but said: "We are categorically against the use of force for the artificial preservation of such regimes."

The inter-regional group claims about 400 members of the 2,250-member Soviet Congress of People's Deputies. It was created largely under the inspiration of the late Nobel-prize-winning human rights advocate Andrei Sakharov. One of its leaders is Boris Yeltsin, an outspoken reform advocate.

Azerbaijani activists said Friday police staged two raids on the Azerbaijan government's offices in Moscow and arrested a leader of the People's Front, Exhilar Mamedov.

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Colombian plane crashes in New York; 67 killed

COVE NECK, New York (Agencies) — A Colombian jetliner trying to land in heavy fog and rain reported an engine had failed before it crashed, killing at least 67 people aboard the plane, authorities said Friday.

Helicopters lifted bloodied passengers to hospitals as a priest gave last rites on the ground after the Thursday night crash.

Avianca Flight 52, a Boeing 707, was carrying 149 passengers and a crew of nine when it crashed on its second approach to Kennedy international airport on Long Island, east of New York City, the airline said.

"There were bodies on top of bodies on top of bodies," said Jeff Race, 26, a New York City paramedic who lives near the crash scene. He said he was the first paramedic at the scene.

Hundreds of rescuers raced to the crash scene, pulling adults and children from the wreckage and appealing for calm in Spanish and English.

Helicopters and ambulances transported survivors to area hospitals and the nearby front lawn of tennis champion John McEnroe's parents became a makeshift morgue as bodies were brought there to be covered in white plastic body blankets.

Rescuer George Dunn, a doctor at nearby Glen Cove Community Hospital, said: "I personally tagged 17 bodies." Other doctors reported more deaths.

A priest, Father Joseph Collins, said he delivered last rites to between 35 and 45 people. "They were either dead or dying," he said.

Bloodied bodies lay among trees. Hands groped out of parts of the plane waving for help. Rescuers administered emergency oxygen and saline solution to injured survivors strapped to stretchers.

"Children were being pulled from the plane and crying for their parents," rescue worker Paul Wolf said.

A screaming girl, apparently trapped in the wreckage, called out in Spanish as rescuers yelled "relax, relax" before freeing her.

A curly-haired child, covered with blood and looking like a broken doll, lay in the arms of a rescuer.

There were no reports of burn injuries indicating that there was no fire on the plane — a sign that the pilot had dumped fuel or lost it, according to aviation experts.

Nassau County executive Guilotta said he understood there were 140 people on board but the airline insisted there were 158.

It was the second crash of an Avianca jet in two months. On November 27, a Boeing 727 exploded just after takeoff from Bogota, killing all 107 people on board in what police said was an attack planned by the country's drug barons.

Flight 052 came down in a wooded area of the north shore of Long Island, not far from the childhood home of President Theodore Roosevelt as well as the McEnroe estate.

There were also conflicting reports on what might have caused the crash. Torres told Reuters bad weather and congestion at Kennedy kept the plane from landing. "That plane was kept circling," he said.

Kennedy spokesman said the plane made a wrong approach when it came in to land in fog and crashed after engine failure a few minutes later as it made its second approach.

Eyewitness David Johnson said: "I saw the plane going very slow. I could not hear the engines. It was flying very low."

Rescuers said it missed a house by 15 metres.

The Boeing 707 apparently ran out of fuel or its engines failed and the pilot dumped fuel, the officials said.

Muslim militant killed by police in Cairo shootout

CAIRO (R) — Police shot dead a Muslim militant sought for anti-government activity during a clash in Cairo Friday, security sources said.

Ahmad Kamel, who was wanted for possessing explosives and distributing anti-government leaflets, fired from an unlicensed pistol at policemen who tried to arrest him in the poor Cairo district of 'Ain Shams, the sources said.

Police returned the fire, seriously wounding Kamel who later died in hospital, they said.

Kamel was the second Islamic fundamentalist to be killed in a shootout with police this week. A militant was shot dead during a clash Monday in the Upper Egypt town of Assiut.

The banned Jamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) denounced the Assiut shooting and said members would defy new Interior

Minister Mohammad Musa, who has called for dialogue rather than confrontation.

"Mohammad Musa's dialogue is with bullets," it said in a statement, adding that the group retained the right to hold protests.

Police are reported to detained dozens of militants across Egypt over the past week as part of a crackdown aimed at curbing fundamentalist activity.

Musa, who has been governor of Assiut, bastion of Muslim militancy, was appointed interior minister two weeks ago by President Hosni Mubarak in place of Zaki Badr.

During his four years in office, Badr arrested thousands of fundamentalists under emergency laws in force since the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

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After decades in the cellar, Jordanian left marvels at new freedom

By Lank K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After decades of semi-clandestine work, Jordanian left-wing groups — ranging from Marxist-Leninist to pan-Arabist — are operating in the open again, and there is a feeling all round that the new openness will be everybody's advantage.

"There is no doubt that there is a big difference. At least we move freely without fear of arrest or harassment," explains Salem Nahas, a leading member of the Marxist-Leninist Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPD), Nahas was imprisoned several times in the past for his political activities.

The de facto shift in the status of the leftist groups began last September, immediately after the release of about 65 leftist activists who were arrested during the riots which

hit the southern part of the country in April.

But the major turning point was the suspension by Royal Decree of the 1986 Electoral Law provision banning members of political groups for standing for Parliament in mid-October, after which leftist parties started campaigning openly and freely. Even though leftist candidates, unlike those fielded by the Muslim Brotherhood, were allowed to contest the elections as individuals rather than as "party candidates," the polls provided them with the opportunity to reach out to the public.

"The campaigning gave us the chance to get in direct touch with thousands of people, while during the years of clandestine work reaching out was an extremely difficult task," said Issa Madanat, the only member of the Jordan Communist Party (JCP) who won a seat in Parlia-

ment.

Over the years leftist parties depended on the circulation of four-to-five-page newspapers — in the form of leaflets — and to take an indirect but very active role in the professional associations to air their views.

Until two weeks ago, when the government abolished 1953 anti-communism law, any one distributing Marxist literature could face a sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment.

Although the law was very scarcely applied, especially in the last two decades, circulating leaflets, according to leftist activists, could lead to their arrest or at least extensive interrogation. Officials, however, rarely justified any measures taken against leaflets on the basis of "distribution of communist literature."

"Most of the time it was the incitement contained in the leaflets and not the act of distribution

which warranted the interrogation or the arrests," explained a former official.

The last case in which activists were arrested distributing leaflets took place last in August when two young activists were caught distributing communist leaflets in Sweileh.

But even before the official scrapping of the anti-communism law, circulation of leftist leaflets had become a feature of life in Jordan.

The change, however, by far superseded the open distribution of leftist leaflets to the actual permission of activities sponsored by the hitherto illegal groups.

This openness applied on both the Jordanian as well as Palestinian parties. Last December for example, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hosted

Anxiety in Gulf over Kuwait democracy calls

By Rawhi Abaidoh
Reuters

NICOSIA — Nervous or hopeful, Gulf Arabs are watching pro-democracy agitation in Kuwait as a barometer of the region's politics. But they are not reading about it in their newspapers.

"We were instructed not to publish anything under the so-called charter of information ethics," the editor of a major United Arab Emirates newspaper told Reuters.

The editor, who declined to be named, was referring to a law approved last year by Gulf Arab information ministers. It bans publication of material considered harmful to regional security.

Editors and monitors around the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) told the same story. No word has appeared on a series of rallies calling for the return of the elected Kuwaiti parliament dissolved in 1986.

"We look at Kuwait to set the pattern," the editor said in a telephone interview. "When their calling for democracy rises others in the Gulf will benefit."

On the other hand, he noted, the silencing of Kuwait's parliament — two decades old and the liveliest in the Arab World — was followed by a two year gap in meetings of the UAE's Tamim consultative council, which is appointed by the federation's rulers.

Kuwait police used stun grenades, teargas and water cannon Monday to break a demonstration by several thousand people campaigning for the return of parliament.

The gathering defied an implicit call by Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah to end rallies held weekly since early December.

The Emir says he is ready to discuss popular participation in government but Gulf officials and intellectuals told Reuters they doubted he would restore the assembly.

They said it was less likely still that a democratic push could topple governments in the Gulf like a row of unstable Eastern European dominoes.

A senior Gulf official who declined to be named told Reuters it was "unfair" to draw comparisons between the Gulf and the series of Com-



Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah
monist regimes crumbled under the peoples' power last year.

"The peoples of Eastern Europe were calling for bread. There was an economic crisis that is simply not present in the Gulf," he said.

"The comparison might apply to Iraq, Syria, China and North Korea, but in the UAE, for example, there is a feeling of satisfaction."

"There are various forums to express one's opinion through newspapers which are fairly liberal, and through the majlis," he said, referring to councils appointed by rulers to hear public petitions.

"The states of social development are different from one country to the other. We should not simply photocopy other models."

Famine threatens Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Kabul's ruling Communists are blocking wheat supplies and hoarding pesticides needed to avert a famine in war-weary Afghanistan's northern provinces, according to a humanitarian organisation.

The Soviet-backed government has ignored a four-month-old request to have the United Nations move chemical and grain supplies to territory controlled by U.S.-backed rebels, said Azam Gul, a member of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan.

Another three-month delay will force thousands to flee to squalid refugee camps in neighbouring countries or starve to death, he warned.

The Swedish committee has been monitoring Afghanistan's agricultural problems for several years. It is a member of Achar, an umbrella group coordinating several relief groups working with Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

"No wheat has gone out from the government side to the Mujahedeen side. That's a fact," said Anders Fange, head of the Swedish Committee. In December, Kabul's security troops stopped a United Nations survey team from crossing government-held areas into rebel strongholds in northern Afghanistan to assess the food shortages, he said.

Afghanistan's charge d'affaires in Islamabad could not be immediately reached for comment on the accusation.

However, Andrew Gilmore of United Nations

in Geneva said he knew of no U.N. shipments being blocked.

Gul said Kabul's Communist government has about 8,000 tonnes of the desperately needed pesticide to control ravenous insects devouring grain crops in northern Afghanistan. Some of the pesticide is being smuggled and sold to farmers, but most of it is in warehouses in Afghanistan's cities, controlled by Moscow's ally.

U.S.-supported rebels have been fighting for 11 years to topple successive Communist governments. Soviet troops pulled out of the war-torn country in February 1989 after nine years of direct military intervention.

An estimated three million Afghans fled to Pakistan and two million more moved to Iran when Soviet soldiers entered Afghanistan in 1979.

Gul said the protracted war has destroyed irrigation systems, killed most of the livestock and reduced the farm labour force to old men, women and children.

Nature has added to the problems in northern Afghanistan. Little rain over the past year, a late spring frost in 1988 and a burgeoning invasion of insects, including locusts, and rodents, have all destroyed grain crops, he said.

About 350,000 people live in the hardest hit provinces of Faryab, Jozjan, Badghis, Samangan and Badakhshan, said Gul.

Israeli linked to Colombian druglords found killed

MIAMI (AP) — An Israeli businessman linked to mercenaries who allegedly trained gunmen for Colombian cocaine traffickers was found dead at the Miami international airport, stuffed into the trunk of a car, police said Thursday.

The body of Arik Afek, who had been interviewed recently by secret service agents preparing for U.S. President George Bush's visit to Colombia, was discovered Wednesday after police received complaints of an odor coming from the car in the airport parking garage.

The cause of death was not announced, but police spokeswoman Lizette Williams said it was a homicide.

"We are looking for anyone who can give us information on the case," she said, adding that detectives had not revealed whether they have any suspects.

The body was found in a beige Buick Regal, but Williams said she had no information on the car's ownership.

The Dade County medical examiner's office, where the body was taken, referred questions to the Metro-Dade police, who were awaiting autopsy results and declined to reveal whether the body had any marks or wounds.

"They're not releasing that, but you realise the body was in a trunk for several days," said Williams.

In Washington, a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Afek gave several different accounts of his activities to secret service agents who interviewed him within the last two weeks.

The agents have been trying to determine whether the drug cartel based in Medellin, Colombia, has access to anti-aircraft missiles or other weapons that could be used against Bush during his visit to Colombia next month for an anti-drug summit with Latin American leaders.

The secret service found out about Afek through news reports of his activities in Colombia, said an administration source, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Last year, Colombian authorities accused Afek of helping reserve Israeli army Colonel Yair Klein escape from Colombia amid reports Klein was training the guards of druglords there. Klein later said he thought he was training the farmers to fight guerrillas.

In September, Colombian authorities issued arrest warrants for

both Klein and Afek.

At the time, Diva Rojas, a spokeswoman for Colombia's Department of Security, identified Afek as a civilian who had an arms business in Israel and flower shops in the United States. Miami police said he had a home south of the city.

The two Israelis were wanted for violating laws against conspiring, teaching and enlisting civilians in military operations without the approval of the defence ministry, Rojas said.

The two men were believed to have entered Colombia in August 1988 and to have left in mid-1989 after reports surfaced that foreign mercenaries were training hit squads for the Medellin and Cali drug cartels.

Reached in Tel Aviv Tuesday, Klein denied he fled Colombia, saying he left normally, and showed reporters a passport stamp. Israel has refused to extradite Klein, saying the charges are not covered by extradition treaties.

Israeli Television claimed Thursday that Afek was being investigated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which had given him a U.S. passport in return for information on Israeli activity in Colombia.

Police question Weizman on PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police have questioned Science Minister Ezer Weizman about his alleged contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), sources said Friday.

The interrogation was part of a criminal investigation ordered by attorney-general Yosef Harish after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir accused Weizman of holding illegal contacts with a hostile "terrorist" organisation.

The sources said Police Commissioner David Krauss questioned the minister in his office Thursday about a reported meeting with the PLO representative in Geneva and telephone contacts with an Israeli Arab visiting PLO headquarters in Tunis.

A police spokesman declined comment. Weizman has parliamentary immunity from prosecution and is most unlikely to stand trial.

Weizman, a former air force chief and architect of the 1979 treaty with Egypt, has repeatedly said Israel should negotiate with the PLO.

He has said the Geneva meet-

Ezer Weizman

ing was a chance encounter and the telephone contacts with Ahmad Tibi, a Jerusalem doctor who has acted as a go-between with the PLO on humanitarian affairs, were authorised by Vice-Premier Shimon Peres.

A widely-criticised 1986 law prohibits unauthorised contacts with the PLO.

Shamir fired Weizman Dec. 31 over the alleged contacts but reinstated him two days later after Peres' Labour Party threatened to leave the government. However, Weizman was dropped from the policy-making 12-man inner cabinet.

Tibi told Reuters he had not violated Israeli law since his contacts with the PLO were authorised as part of efforts to gain the release of Israeli prisoners held in Lebanon.

Iran says hijack foiled

NICOSIA (R) — Gunmen tried to seize an Iranian airliner on a domestic flight Thursday night but security guards foiled the attempt, wounding two hijackers, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Friday.

The agency, quoting a statement from the Revolutionary Guards, said "armed terrorists" tried to seize the Iran Air Boeing 727 flying from the southwest city of Shiraz to the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas.

Guards overpowered the hijackers who were holding a crewman hostage. Two hijackers were wounded and the plane returned safely to Shiraz. None of the passengers was hurt.

The Revolutionary Guards said the hijackers struck shortly after the plane left Shiraz at 7.30 p.m. (1600 GMT). The statement did not say how many hijackers were involved nor where they wanted to go.

IRNA gave no other details but said the attempted hijack coincided with preparations for Iran's celebrations of the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution which overthrew the Shah.

24 killed, 32 lost in Tunisian floods

TUNIS (Agencies) — Floods in central and southern Tunisia have killed 24 people and 32 others are missing and feared drowned, official sources said Friday.

The floods have damaged more than 14,000 houses and 3,000 kilometres of roads and destroyed bridges and railway lines worth millions of dinars, they said.

Tunisian television screened pictures Thursday night of thousands of hectares of water-logged farmland and major damage to bridges on main roads.

President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali has put off an official visit to Egypt because of the disaster and the army is taking food and blankets to the homeless.

Some parts of the south had more than 300 millimetres of rain between last Saturday and Wednesday. In many areas this was more than the average for the whole year.

Rains slackened Thursday as the United Nations and foreign countries responded to a government appeal for food, tents, water pumps and other emergency aid.

Flood waters received in central and southern Tunisia, the regions hit hardest by the storm, and overland links were reestab-

lished with the communities of Sidi Bouzid, Gafsa, Gabes, Tozeur and Kasserine, the TAP news agency reported.

Thousands of homeless people sought shelter in schools, mosques and public buildings. The Health Ministry issued a statement saying there appeared no risk of an epidemic.

The news agency earlier reported a riot Wednesday by Islamic fundamentalists in the hard-hit central city of Sidi Bouzid, where 13 people died, TAP said.

About 800 sympathisers of the outlawed fundamentalist movement al-Nahda buried rocks at government buildings and burned a parked car as they exhibited the body of a person they said had been killed in the floods. TAP reported.

Police arrested 26 people in the demonstration.

TAP said the protesters expressed their hostility towards the Tunisian educational system without any relationship to the situation brought on by the flooding.

France offered 18 tons of emergency aid Thursday including pumps, electricity generators, tents, blankets and water treatment products, the French Foreign Ministry said in Paris.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Somalia dismisses human rights criticism

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia said Friday that a scathing report on human rights abuse in the country by Amnesty International was unfounded and malicious. The Ministry of Information said in a statement that the report, published by the London-based human rights group Thursday, was based on "unfounded" information obtained from opposition groups in the service of the enemies of Somalia. Amnesty accused the government of President Mohamed Siad Barre of carrying out large numbers of extrajudicial executions and ignoring the rule of law. Among the extrajudicial executions performed last year, it mentioned the shooting by firing squad of 46 people on Jazira beach near Mogadishu following riots in the capital last July, and the execution of several refugees forcibly repatriated from neighbouring Kenya. The Information Ministry described such reports, which have also been documented by other human rights groups, as "far from the truth."

Bush extends sanctions on Libya

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has informed Congress he was extending economic sanctions imposed on Libya four years ago because he had determined that Muammar Qaddafi's government still posed a threat to U.S. national security. "The policies and actions of the government of Libya continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States," Bush said in a statement required by law every six months. "I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against Libya as long as these measures are appropriate," he said. Former President Ronald Reagan imposed the sanctions in January, 1986 to punish Libya for its alleged support of "terrorism."

U.S. recalls minesweepers from Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is withdrawing its last three navy minesweepers from the Gulf 18 months after the last explosive device was plucked from the waterway in the wake of the Iran-Iraq war, the Pentagon said Thursday. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams told reporters the navy minesweepers Esteem, Enhance and Conquest would return to their home ports on the west coast. "The last time a mine was discovered was 18 months ago," said Williams, adding that the danger to shipping in the region had waned since the 1988 ceasefire between Iran and Iraq.

U.N. envoy urged to extend stay in Iran

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Hunger-striking opponents of the Iranian government petitioned the United Nations Thursday to extend the stay of an official now in Iran investigating alleged human rights violations. The petition was signed by some 40 members and supporters of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq organisation who are staging a hunger strike opposite the United Nations to coincide with an eight-day visit to Iran by U.N. human rights commission investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl. They say similar hunger strikes are being staged in a dozen other countries. The Mujahadeen want Galindo Pohl, who arrived in Tehran Sunday, to stay longer so he can "bear the testimony of witnesses of the Khomenei regime's crimes and visit some of the countless torture centres, secret prisons and collective graves." Galindo Pohl, a Salvadoran lawyer, is on his first visit as a human rights investigator. Iran, which has previously denied him entry, has been criticised in annual U.N. reports since 1982.

MMIS Management Consultants

Jordan Institute of Management / Industrial Development Bank

Annual Report To The Business Community

As we begin our third year of operations, MMIS would like to thank our clients and the business community for their strong acceptance, and to report on our results to date.

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MMIS Management Consultants PO Box 7976 Tel: 649040

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korean
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:25 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Consumer's Guide
22:25 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Variety programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 Documentary
19:15 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural Phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 With the Courage
22:00 Classical music
22:40 News in English
22:50 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

05:48 Fajr

06:28 (Sunrise) Daba

11:48 Dhahr

14:43 'Asr

17:08 Maghrib

18:28 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 310740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625381, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

American International Church Tel. 683266

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 649033

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold, cloudy and rainy at times with a chance for snow in the northern regions of the Kingdom. Winds will be southeasterly fresh with strong blows at times. In Aqaba, it will be cloudy with expected showers of rain and winds will be northerly to fresh and sea high.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 2 / 7

Aqaba 10 / 16

Deserts 1 / 9

Jordan Valley 7 / 12

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 4, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 77 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 898140

Dr. Jamil Marzag 770046

Dr. Munir Qasbi 898101

Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 812148

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asana pharmacy 637035

Natrouh pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 637330

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shumaila pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Adel Hattamieh ()

Al Shamsa pharmacy (982326)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdel Karim Khashashneh ()

Khalifa pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Police 192, 621131, 637177

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 663930

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone - Information 121

(Director's assistance) 010230

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623672

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

Company 08 33200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08 33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Center 81361322

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816

Akshid Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412

Jabal Amman Maternity

King urges all people to help in greening Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has urged Jordanians to plant more trees in the country and help green the Kingdom by the year 2000.

In a telephone message broadcast over Radio Jordan's Arabic service, Thursday, the King said that planting trees in the Kingdom was a national responsibility and a national contribution towards the worldwide campaign to protect the environment and stem pollution.

Arab Arbor Day does not mean planting trees on a particular day of the year, the King said. "It should be an incentive

for all citizens to take part in the planting of trees around the year so that the country can achieve its target by the end of the century," he said.

He announced that from now on Arab Day would be a public holiday to enable students and members of the public to be involved in planting trees on the widest possible scale. "For every tree," said the King, "a total of 200 trees should be planted in the country if Jordanians wish to see their Kingdom covered with green vegetation by the end of the present decade." The King called on all Jordanians to grow

and protect trees everywhere and take serious responsibility towards the future generations.

A tree planting celebration was held Thursday at Abu Alanda southeast of Amman under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The Queen, accompanied by Her Royal Highnesses Prince Hamzah and Prince Hashem, planted an olive sapling and was joined in the planting of trees by local residents, officials and students. The planting took place in a new public garden at Abu Alanda which the Queen inaugurated earlier.



H.M. King Hussein

Jordan opposes UNRWA cuts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Friday issued a statement expressing total opposition to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) plans to reduce its services to the refugees and displaced persons living in Jordan.

"UNRWA's plan crystallised early this year when the United States declared its intention to reduce its annual contribution to the agency's budget by \$11.7 million," said the department's director, Ahmad Qatanani, in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The United States cut its contribution from \$67 million in 1988 to \$61 million in 1989 and to \$50 million in 1990.

"UNRWA has indeed started implementing its programme of reducing food distribution services at schools and UNRWA centres in the Kingdom affecting 200,000 children," Qatanani said.

"We view the situation with deep seriousness and warn of the adverse impact on the refugees and UNRWA workers in general," Qatanani said.

Refugee children aged three to five used to get a sandwich a day and a hot meal a week from the agency through contributions from the European Community (EC), which finances the nutrition programme with \$2 million a year, but UNRWA spends some \$700,000 to prepare and distribute the food to the children, according to agency sources.

UNRWA Director in Jordan Elie Saaf told a news conference last week that criticism and protest from the refugees over stopping the meals programme was expected but he said that the food and money spent on the programme would still be used to benefit Palestinians but not necessarily in Jordan.

Qatanani told Petra Friday that the issue of UNRWA's services

was discussed with Saaf, whose attention was drawn to the fact that the devalued Jordanian dinar resulted in additional income for the agency with which it should improve and increase instead of reducing services to refugees living in Jordan.

Qatanani said UNRWA should remain committed to its mission in providing care for the Palestinian refugees on behalf of the international community, which shoulders the responsibility for the continued plight of the Palestinian refugees.

"Any reduction in the agency's budget is bound to cause more suffering for the Palestinian refugees and will consequently increase the burden on the Jordanian government, which provides services to the Palestinians at the rate of \$140 million annually spent in health, education and social services," according to Qatanani.

Following UNRWA's

announcement of its plans earlier this month, a committee representing the refugees wrote a protest letter to the Vienna-based UNRWA commissioner-general, Giorgio Giacomelli. A strong protest over UNRWA's decision also came from Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh. Sayeh urged Arab and Muslim countries to take action and prevent the agency's plan from being implemented.

Sayeh described the move as a first step towards ending the agency's services altogether.

The agency's reduction of services, especially food programmes, was discussed by the Arab countries hosting refugees at a conference held in Tunis last week. Qatanani, who attended the meeting, said that the Arab countries sent a message to the UNRWA commissioner-general demanding reversal of this decision.

Panel to reassess housing loan interest

AMMAN (J.T.) — In keeping with his promise to the Lower House of Parliament to help lessen the burden on citizens who obtain loans for housing, Prime Minister Mudar Badran has decided to set up a special committee to reconsider a system by which loans are granted for housing, according to an official statement Friday.

The committee will also look into a system for granting people agricultural loans, according to the statement. It said that interest on the loans would be calculated on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the borrower's financial income and ability to pay back.

The committee, which is to be chaired by Minister of Public

Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, has been asked to report to the prime minister on its work in two weeks time, according to the statement. It said that the committee comprises representatives of the Housing Corporation, the Urban Development Department (UDD), the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

The prime minister also requested Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arbayat to look into the possibility of setting up an insurance system for agricultural producers in order to protect them against damages resulting from natural disasters.

Ministry outlines literacy strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education is implementing an international plan for eradicating illiteracy in Jordan in cooperation with the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), according to Hussein Al Usta, director of academic education at the Ministry of Education.

Usta said the plan, which was recently endorsed by the educational council, aims to eradicate illiteracy in the Kingdom by the year 2000 in implementation of resolutions adopted by the first National Educational Conference held in 1987.

Usta said that the ministry's

programme this year entails launching intensive campaigns in selected areas of the Kingdom like the Jordan Valley and Madaba where the ministry would try to conduct a survey to determine the number of illiterates prior to asking department of education to provide adult and literacy education programmes in the respective regions.

The campaign will involve showing documentary films and seminars to spread awareness among illiterates over the need for learning and ministry teams will be distributing brochures in the course of the campaign. Usta said.

Frost severely damages Jordan Valley crops

AMMAN (J.T.) — Frost weather in the past two days has caused severe damage to thousands of dunums of agricultural land and crops in the Jordan Valley, according to the chairman of the federation of Jordan Valley Farmers Association, Mohammad Al Tawil.

Tawil was quoted as saying by the press that large crops like potatoes, subergines, pepper, beans and tomatoes had been affected, specially in the low-lying areas along the River Jordan and at Damia and Bisharat regions.

Tawil said nearly 6,000 dunums of land in these areas were affected by the cold spell, which also damaged nearly 10 per cent

of the banana crop. Tawil urged farmers to spray their vegetables with insecticides to help reduce the effect of the frost during the night.

Cold spell to continue

A spokesman for the Department of Meteorology said that the cold spell, which brought in very cold winds from the east and drastically reduced temperatures, was due to end by Friday evening. He said that the lowest recorded temperature was at Shobak minus seven degrees. He said that clouds would appear and rain would fall in most regions ending the frost and the cold spell.

Soviets exempt Jordanian students from fees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian students pursuing studies at Soviet universities will have not pay fees, Ministry of Education and Higher Education Director of Cultural Affairs, Mu'awiyah Khaza'i said Friday.

Cultural and scientific ties between Jordan and the Soviet Union were organised by an agreement signed between the two countries.

Khaza'i referred to a Soviet proposal which calls on Jordan to partially contribute to costs of education of Jordanian students and said: "Jordan made it clear that it does not send Jordanian students on scholarship abroad unless this is done at the expense of friendly countries. That is why Jordan proposed that scholarships remain at the expense of the Soviet Union and if economic problems stand in the way then the number of scholarships can be reduced."

Eyskens on visit to the south

AMMAN (Petra) — Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens has begun a two-day private visit in southern Jordan after concluding a three-day official stay during which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein for a discussion on Middle East problems and the role of the European Community (EC) in the region.

Eyskens was spending Friday and Saturday in Aqaba, the Nabatean city of Petra before leaving for home.

King Hussein expressed to Eyskens at a meeting at the Royal Court Jordan's deep concern over the lack of progress in finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and Israel's intransigence in particular.

Israel's stand continues to weaken prospects for peace at a time when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is displaying a moderate attitude to help achieve progress in the peace process, the King said at the meeting, which was attended

by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

King Hussein said he had serious concerns about proposals and plans for mass immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Such a move, he said, poses serious danger to the prospect of peace in the area.

King Hussein emphasised the need for international efforts to bring about permanent Iran-Iraq peace.

Teacher beats boy to death

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ministry of education with local authorities has launched an investigation into the death of an eight-year-old boy after being severely beaten by his mathematics teacher in the classroom in the Shobak region in southern Jordan.

A report in the local press said the boy in the second grade was harshly beaten by the teacher after failing to answer questions.

The boy was holding a sharp pen in his hand while the teacher was beating him; the harsh blows caused the sharp neck to penetrate the boy's neck causing a rupture in the

major artery supplying the brain, according to Mohammad Khattab, education department director in Maan Governorate who rushed to the scene.

Khattab said the boy identified only as MAR, was taken to the Shobak government hospital where he died.

Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al Masri said corporal punishment was banned at all schools and the ministry would pursue investigations into the case.

Al Masri said that responsibility for order and discipline at schools lies primarily with the school principal rather than the

director of education who "cannot control everything that goes on at all schools in his area." All schools have been informed of the ministry of education's strict and firm instructions banning corporal punishment in or outside the classrooms. Al Masri said. "Death of the little child is a serious incident and the ministry will follow up the case with the concerned authorities, he added.

The Education Department director in Maan said that the ministry's position would hinge on a decision by the court to which the case has now been referred.

Amman Rostrum to highlight Arabic music in original form

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation has just announced two important events that will take place on Jordanian soil in the near future:

The 12th meeting of the executive board of the Arab Academy of Music (Arab League) and the first Arab Music Rostrum organised by the International Music Council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). It will be held in Amman from Feb. 3-7. The aim of the rostrum is to orient the countries of the world to original examples of Arabic music as handled by the participating (Arab) states.

The Arab Academy of Music, which includes to 22 Arab states, organises a general conference of music once every two years preceded a year earlier by a meeting of the executive board. The last meeting was held at the "Institute de Monde Arabe" in Paris; the subject tackled was "the Arab-European musical dialogue."

The Baghdad-based academy looks into the development of music education as well as the propagation and popularisation of musical culture, reaching out to the public. It researches all facets of traditional Arabic music and watches over all musical, vocal and instrumental productions.

The International Council of Music it was established under the umbrella of the UNESCO-Paris in 1949 as a non-political consultative council responsible for musical affairs. It has grown to 23 member states and includes 50 prominent personalities, composers, performers, researchers, music historians and music educators.

The council allows the different national and international music organisations to communicate and cooperate together, enables more such organisations to be established

where the need arises. It organises festivals and conferences and helps publish musical compositions. It distributes musical instruments and forms expert exchanges on an individual and group basis.

It studies the social and financial situation of professional musicians and musical establishments. It also encourages the introduction of all kinds of music into the public music curriculum. It encourages the exchange of ideas on the different methods of music education.

It was in 1981 that the executive secretary of the International Council of Music, in cooperation with the secretary of the Arab Academy of Music, Manir Bashir, suggested that an Arab Musical Rostrum be held. The National Conservatory of Music in Jordan responded to the call and finally made it possible. It invited many Arab broadcasting services as well as the Union of Arab Broadcasters and members of the International Academy of Music etc. Other such rostra are held the world over, according to geographical order, assuming quality exhibits of local musical culture.

In the past such rostra were held for Asian, African and European music as well as the music of the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean offered its contribution as well.

The rostrum requires a sixty-minute recording of each country's music. That should include one or more forms of music such as "traditional" classical, folk or modernised traditional music; i.e. any art music that uses traditional forms and techniques. A research paper should accompany the recordings.

The Rostrum on Arabic Music is divided according to geographical boundaries: "north-west Africa, the Nile and Red Sea area, the Eastern Arab area, the Arabian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

Both activities (rostrum and

the 12th meeting) will be inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Saturday Feb. 3 at the Royal Cultural Centre. A speech by the minister of culture will follow. Students, teachers of music and musicians from all over the Kingdom are advised to attend.

The Rostrum will hold its first meeting at the Philadelphia hotel.

A committee of professionals will listen to the tapes and explanations and will impart honorary status to the deserving parties following such criteria as the authenticity of style, the artistic standard of the music and performance and the quality of musical productions. The winning participants will have their works broadcast over all members stations. A miscellany of the works will be recorded and printed.

"Every artist that is creative should be introduced to the public" suggests Abdul Hamid Hamam, associate professor of music at Yarmouk University, "that way, he will develop and be obliged to get better."

At the end of the Rostrum, there will be an open discussion and an exchange of ideas, suggestions and advice.

A seminar on music in Jordan will be held on the last day of the Rostrum.

"Jordan is always blamed in that all its music is 'new'. That is false," explains Hamam. "Music was always there, but it has only been officialised and documented lately. Some of our music has been usurped, other countries claim its origin. We have bedouin music, peasant music etc."

"If you look for the valuable, you will find it" reiterated Mazah Shukry, director of Public Relations of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, quoting an Arab saying.

Such statements reflect the keen interest and excitement elicited already by the prospect of such a constructive meeting.

"Yousra Arnita is the pioneer who stressed the study

of Arabic music and Arabic instruments in Jordan. She is one of the first people who sought to develop a documented methodology for teaching Arabic music. Until now it has been non-existent," explains Hind Nasser, chairperson of the committee of the National Conservatory of Music in Amman Kifah Fakhoury, director of the conservatory, and all related staff stop at nothing to introduce every method of music education to the teachers and students of music in the Kingdom, be it Orff or Kodaly or others.

To crown the occasion of the Rostrum, a series of concerts will be held each evening by professional musicians who have great experience in classical and/or traditional Arabic music. Mark Loopyrt, who arrives from France with the help of the French Cultural Centre, will play the "ud Monday, Feb. 5. Composer Patrick Lama, resident in Paris, will give a piano recital of his own classical compositions based on the structures of classical Arabic music on Wednesday Feb. 7. Munir Bashir, the renowned Iraqi ud player will perform Thursday, Feb. 8th, in an enchanting finale.

As for local performers, the Symphonyn orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces will perform on Saturday, Feb. 3 (It is imperative to note here that Jordan is the only Arab country with a symphony orchestra belonging to the Armed Forces Band. It has spent six years in Vienna and grows more mature every day). The Fubeis Group for the Revival of Heritage will perform Sunday, Feb. 4. The Jordanian "Arab Nagham orchestra" (of the Jordanians musicians' union) Tuesday will perform.

All activities (except for that of the symphony orchestra held at Royal Cultural Centre) will be held at the Philadelphia Hotel. Tickets are sold to the public for JD 3 each. A combination ticket of JD 12 will be issued allowing the public to attend all performances.

JORDAN FERTILIZER INDUSTRY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company **Arab Potash Company**

WISH

A HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

MARKING SUCCESSFUL GATEWAY TO PROSPEROUS NINETIES

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Example to be followed

WEDNESDAY'S meeting of the General Assembly of the Peoples Committee for the Support of the Palestinian Intifada offers an exemplary show of solidarity with the Palestinians under occupation by citizens of all faiths, ideologies and origin. The composition of the general assembly and the committee which executes its decisions and recommendations tell a fine story of Jordanian cohesion and determination to bolster the Palestinian uprising, now in its third year. The funds raised by the committee and those which are expected to be raised this year manifest our people's commitments to translate our vocal and moral support into solid deeds and actions. If only the support of Jordanians can be duplicated in other corners of the Arab World, the Palestinian struggle can continue for as long as it takes to achieve liberation and statehood.

In this context it would be a most useful step if tax structures in Arab countries could be amended in a way that allows individual and corporate contributions to the Intifada to be treated as tax deductible. This is one way how more and more Arabs can be encouraged to contribute even bigger sums of money to their brethren in the occupied territories. It will be recalled that this is how Jews all over the world had succeeded in accumulating huge funds to aid and support the creation of Israel and assure its survival till now. It is high time therefore that the Arab countries begin to duplicate this successful Jewish experience in order to speed up the process of liberation and establishing a Palestinian state.

Of course there are other ways available to lend meaningful support for the Palestinians under occupation. For example, a special private Arab fund for the support of the Intifada can be created alongside the Arab League's financial support. The experiences of the Jordanian committee can of course be put at the disposal of all other Arab countries which have yet to begin their material support for the Palestinians. All citizens in this country feel a special duty to step to the rescue of their brothers and sisters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that is why they have taken such an early initiative in that direction right from the moment the Intifada was ignited more than two years ago. Still the other Arab peoples are duty-bound to share with Jordanians and Palestinians this national responsibility by initiating their own respective efforts to lend tangible support for the Intifada. The success story of the Jordanian effort to help and support the Palestinian people needs to be repeated elsewhere in the Arab World and soon for the avowed Arab solidarity with the Palestinian Intifada to take on a real meaning and credibility.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

The Belgian foreign minister's understanding of King Hussein's concern over the situation in the Middle East and the continued Jewish immigration to Palestine, reflects Europe's response to the requirements of peace in our region, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in an editorial Friday. The paper said that the King had presented the facts about the situation of the region to the foreign minister of Belgium, a member of the European Community which had in the past displayed concern over the situation and desire to help establish peace. Indeed the time is more ripe than ever before for the international community in general and the European Community in particular to help in the process of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's aggressive policies which, if allowed to continue, are bound to bring more tragedies for the people of the Middle East, the paper said. The King has explained to the Belgian minister that Israel is not only thwarting efforts towards peace but it has been also bringing in more Jews to be settled in the occupied Arab lands and preparing plans for further aggression on the Arabs, the paper said. The King's call for a quick end to the Israeli occupation constitutes a serious warning to the world of the danger inherent in Israel's policies in the Arab region, the paper concluded.

Al Dustour daily on Friday dwelt on Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statement to Agence France Press in which he stressed the concept that Jordan is not Palestine and will not serve as a national homeland for the Palestinians whose lands have been occupied since 1948. The paper echoed the prime minister's views that as the Jewish state continues to face internal problems and an escalation of tension among its political parties it tends to direct its public's attention to external issues and mobilise the Israelis towards a new aggression on the Arabs. The paper said that in the face of the uprising in the occupied lands the Israeli leaders try to find an outlet to the dilemma and an end to Arab resistance to occupation by trying to assert that Jordan will serve as a homeland for the Palestinians whose lands should be settled by new Jewish comers from the Eastern bloc. Indeed the new arrivals of Soviet Jews in Israel had encouraged the Israeli leadership to become adamant in its position and to adhere to the concept of Jordan can serve as a homeland for the Palestinian Arabs the paper said. In this case, the paper said there can be no question on about the fact that Tel Aviv is continuing to deceive the world public opinion by bragging about its desire to have peace with its neighbours.

Sawt Al Shabab daily commented on a statement by Shimon Peres in Cairo where he said that the concerned parties in the Middle East problem were about to reach a compromise solution but insisted that the PLO should not be involved. The paper said that Peres who has no weight now since he is not a prime minister of Israel nor does he represent the Israeli government in Egypt, could not bring forward any evidence that the concerned parties are about to agree on a formula to end the Palestine problem. It said that if Peres does not wish to have the PLO involved in the solution then it is quite clear that he is bluffing his audience and trying to gain more time for Israel to consolidate its hold on the Arab region. It is impossible, said the paper, to have a solution without the involvement of the people whose land has been usurped and their representatives who continue to advocate the Arab rights in Palestine.

View From Amman

A salute to the intifada

Greetings to Jerusalem

IT has been quite a while since I last wrote for the Jordan Times. Since then much has taken place not only in Jordan but in Palestine, the region, in East Europe and internationally as well. In Palestine, the Intifada is nothing short of a glorious revolution that slowly but surely has changed the grim reality of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Since the advent of modern Zionism to the area, almost a century ago, the Palestinians have pinned hopes on others to help them. Finally, despairing that serious help would ever come either from Arab or other sources, they decided to take matters into their own hands. The decision was momentous for several reasons. First, because no one, on the eve of the great uprising, the Intifada, Dec. 9, 1987, thought that such a happening was imminent. On the contrary, Arab and non-Arab analysts and observers were looking for signs of life elsewhere, in the now obviously dead "peace process". Since then no one knows why the Palestinians, already under occupation for two decades, decided to rise up. And rise they did, and in the most valiant and glorious manner. For whatever the future may bring and however the Arab-Israeli conflict may turn out, the Palestinians, under the cruelest and meanest conditions imaginable are writing their history in their own blood on their own walls.

It is as if an entire nation all of a sudden discovered itself and decided to act upon that discovery. That is the second reason why the uprising when it commenced was unusual. It was not commenced by a distinguished well-known leader, an intellectual, imam or a mahdi but by young children, some closer to childhood than puberty; by women, old men, men, even invalids stricken with paralysis like Sheikh Ramadan Yasin. The young and old,

armed with Hamas, also meaning enthusiasm, and sticks and stones have been battling for their land and dignity. They have salvaged their dignity and pride and have proven to themselves and to others who care to notice that Palestine, the land of milk and honey from time immemorial, can produce yet again another generation of heroes.

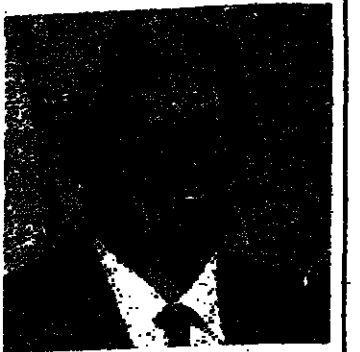
Not a day passes that one does not witness yet another proof of the quite dignified resolve. While one hand throws a stone, the other holds the olive branch. Mothers celebrate; a Zaghrooteh, an ululation, not a scream, is heard when another victim joins the caravan of martyrs. In the newspapers announcing the death of another young Palestinian, male or female, the bereaved family invites people, friends and others to share with them not their sadness, but pride and joy in the three days specified for such occasions.

Why did the Palestinians decide to resist? No one knows why the people behave the way they do or why they have chosen the path they have.

It is not a one man revolution: there has not been Egypt's Urrabi, a Gandhi or a Nelson Mandela. And as the loneliness of the resistance continues and the hardships increase, the pace of the Intifada is maintained. As though it has acquired an inner dynamic and a life of its own. For lonely it surely is, what with Israeli attempts at isolating its events and the terrible deadly Arab silence. The Palestinian-Israeli struggle is also unique for a third reason as well. Here we have the scales so tipped in one direction and the power so uneven that the matter staggers the imagination. For "tiny" Israel is not a tiny but a mighty and efficient death machine led by modern day zealots who are blinded by their anger and rage at the entire world, it is yet the more dangerous. It has

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By Kamel S. Abu Jaber



the tools and the will to use them at the least provocation and when it decides to punish, it does so with a medieval mentality and a Biblical vengeance. Even so, the men, the mothers and the children of Palestine are caught up with them in a death struggle of untold cruelty.

I chose to write my first article on this topic lest we forget what is happening to our people across the river. If the whole world, East or West, Europe or America chooses to turn their face the other way, to ignore, we must not. For the moment that is the least we must do. Perhaps one day this nation that lies at the feet of world powers now, busy with its individual aches or pleasures, will rise once again.

I have no words of wisdom to offer my people in Palestine, many of whom were once my students. For the moment, unfortunately, any wisdom must come from the stones they throw. And until such time as we tame the wild Israelis, the Kahanes, the Kachs, the Hethiachs, the levingers and the Likudists, graduates of the ghettos of Europe and Hitler's death camps, we must persevere. In my own helplessness my heart screams a silent scream in your support each time each one of you uses his sling against the Goliath of Israel.

Soviet immigrants make their way into West Bank settlements

By Steve Weizman
Reuters

OCCUPIED WEST BANK — Kira Nefedov arrived in Israel from Leningrad earlier this month.

Like most immigrants from the Soviet Union she is oblivious to the political storm around their settling in the occupied West Bank and to the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation that has raged on Ariel settlement's doorstep.

Gazing over rocky hills towards the neighbouring Arab village of Kif Harith she looks puzzled when asked how she feels about living in a settlement in the heart of the Israeli-occupied area.

"It's very nice here. People in Ariel are very friendly and many of them speak Russian. Politics? I left politics behind in the Soviet Union," said Nefedov, 36, a chemistry teacher now seeking work as a chemical researcher.

Despite Israeli government disclaimers, Soviet Jews are steadily trickling into West Bank Jewish settlements, alarming Palestinians and angering the United States.

In this hilltop settler town north of Jerusalem, some 100 immigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have arrived in the past three months, more than in the preceding two years.

"The settlers... are starting to get organised and I imagine we will see a sharp increase in the number of Soviet immigrants joining them," Pinhas Mendelson, head of a private consulting firm helping the immigrants, told Reuters.

He predicted that all Ariel's empty housing would soon be filled by Soviet Jews and said the settlement of Maaleh Adumim, east of Jerusalem, was taking in 30 immigrants a month.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ignited U.S. and Arab anger this month by saying a "big Israel" including the occupied territories was needed to accommodate an expected mass wave of Soviet immigration.

Officials tried to play down his remarks, citing statistics showing the number of Soviet Jews who settled in the occupied areas last year — was only a fraction of total immigration.

But even a small percentage of the 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews expected this year would give a

major boost to the 70,000 settlers living among 1.7 million Palestinians.

The U.S. State Department criticised Shamir's remarks as unhelpful to Middle East peace and warned against increasing settlement in the occupied areas.

Palestinian leaders appealed to Western governments in an anguished memorandum to prevent Israel from settling Soviet immigrants in what was left of the Palestinian homeland.

Many of the newcomers seem unaware of the controversy or indeed of any difference in status between Israel and the occupied territories. Their main concern is to find a quiet life, decent housing and jobs.

Most arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport with no clear idea of where they want to live.

Airport officials say they try to bar settlement activists from recruiting the usually bewildered new arrivals but several immigrants said they were approached at the airport.

Others said settlement recruiters made contact at government hostels in Tel Aviv.

Some of the best known former Soviet Jews have moved to West Bank settlements, a potential magnet for zealots.

Former dissident Yosef Begun is one of 30 Soviet emigres living in Kiryat Arba, an ultra-nationalist settlement on the edge of the Arab West Bank town of Hebron. His wife is active in trying to attract new immigrants to join them.

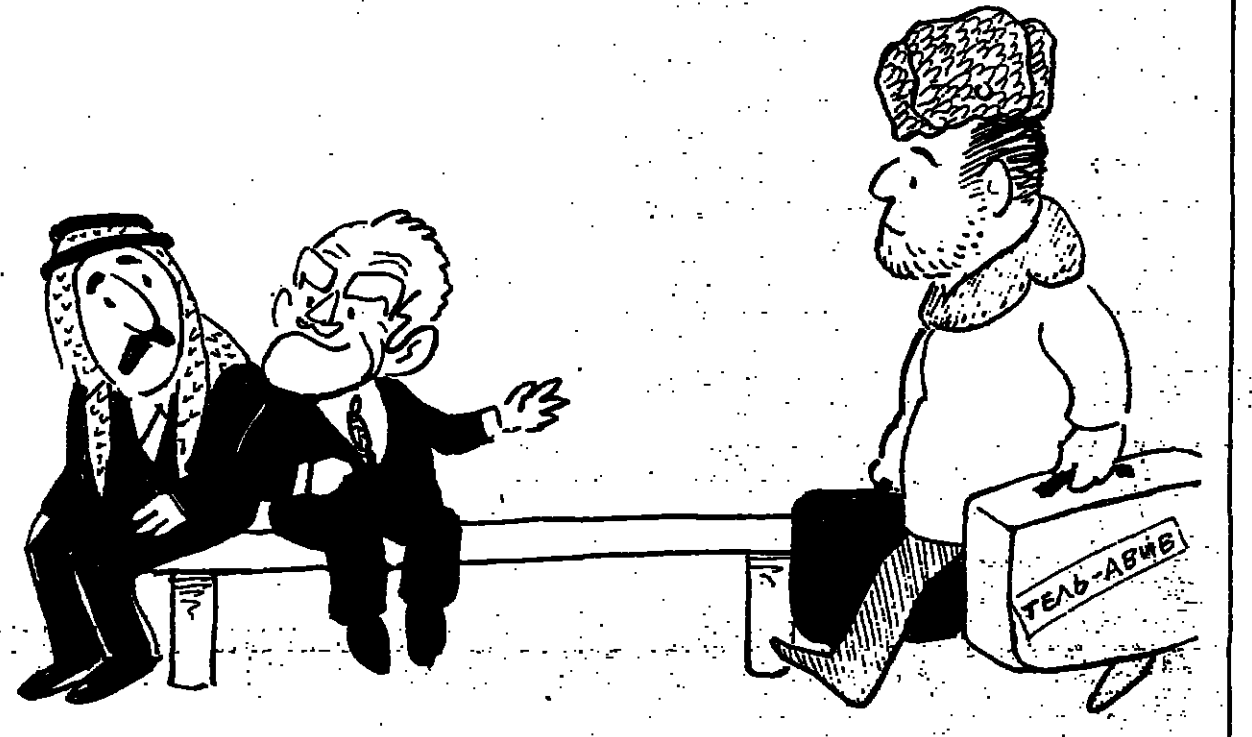
Another well-known immigrant Yuli Edelstein, lives in the settlement of Allon Shvut, south of Jerusalem.

Ariel Mayor Ron Nachman, a member of Shamir's rightist Likud Party, denies using immigrants for political ends, but he says they undermine Labour Party arguments that Jews would end up as a minority in an Israel that included the territories.

"The current wave of immigration from the Soviet Union changes all the demographic theses in Israel today. It changes all the theories about political solutions," he said.

"In Russia they said that there was war in the streets in Israel but it's really very quiet here, we haven't heard a single shot," said Igal Belkan, who arrived in Ariel with his wife and two small sons

MEIR RONNEN ©1990



East bloc states court Israel for prestige, economic aid

By hester Abrams
Reuters

VIENNA — Reformist countries of the East bloc, eager to win more international status and economic assistance, are now rushing to court Israel.

Czechoslovakia had its first visit by an Israeli minister in over two decades this week, following Hungary's pioneering move last September to resume ties broken over the 1967 Israeli-Arab war.

Since that time, only Romania, whose maverick East bloc leader Nicolae Ceausescu was executed with his wife a month ago, has maintained normal diplomatic links with the Jewish state.

Hungary was the first Warsaw Pact state to formalise a new era of warmth since the Soviet Union led its allies in shunning Israel 23 years ago.

Poland said earlier this month it intended to establish diplomatic relations in February or March, and East Germany is considering a similar move.

After meeting Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres said: "I understood from the president that in a very short time we will renew diplomatic relations, probably in a matter of two or three weeks."

But after the handshakes, some of the East European nations also see the prospect of vital economic aid.

Before putting the seal on renewed ties with Prague, Peres signed an economic cooperation pact covering energy, agriculture, telecommunications, computing, banking and tourism.

On resuming links with Hungary, Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said: "I think the Hungarians expect that the Israelis can be helpful with their economy and we are ready to help them."

Israel has predicted that bilateral trade with Hungary could increase to an annual \$100 million within three to four years from the 1988 figure of \$31.6 million.

The Polish foreign ministry has said it took some time to reassure

its Arab friends about its intentions to restore relations with the Jewish state.

But Palestinian and Arab acceptance of Warsaw's new warmth towards Israel no longer appears an obstacle. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat has even suggested Warsaw as a venue for Israeli-Palestinian talks.

While in Prague, Peres said: "We don't see any problem between (the Palestinians) having good relations with Czechoslovakia and with us having good relations with Czechoslovakia."

East Germany, which has never had diplomatic relations with Israel, said last month it was seeking to open them and was willing to consider paying reparations to victims of the Nazi holocaust, which Israel has made a precondition.

Deputy Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere told members of East Germany's Jewish community last week that negotiations on establishing links were in full swing.

The Yugoslav economic programme — more than reform

By Zorka Godel

ONLY three days after the introduction of the new, convertible dinar, the Yugoslav currency was quoted on major world exchanges. Prime Minister Ante Markovic was evidently convincing when he stated that the dinar's convertibility was for the present ensured by Yugoslavia's foreign exchange reserves of over \$6 billion, that it would be maintained over the next six months by fixing the rate of the new dinar at seven to the West German mark, and that the package of economic measures would secure its convertibility on a lasting basis.

Markovic re-dominated the dinar and pronounced it convertible on Dec. 18 last year when presenting his programme of economic and monetary reform to the Assembly of Yugoslavia. At the time the annual inflation rate had hit 2,600 per cent, and the one dinar had long been withdrawn from circulation since it was almost valueless. Thus, as of

Jan. 1 this year, Yugoslavia became the first socialist country with a convertible currency and whose citizens can buy foreign exchange in banks without restriction.

The December package, which it based on restrictive monetary policy, was the last in a series of reforms made by the Markovic government since it came into office on March 15, 1989. Markovic, formerly a successful business executive and a staunch advocate of market economy, did not heed warnings that his first measures — freeing of prices, imports and wages — were the cause of the hyperinflation. He refused to draw up a specifically anti-inflation programme saying that all the government's moves were anti-inflationary.

When he addressed the Assembly of Yugoslavia on Dec. 18, Markovic said the necessary preconditions had been created and that the time was ripe for implementing a comprehensive programme of reform.

The liberalisation of prices, im-

ports and wages has enabled the establishment of market-based price parties which were previously disrupted by administrative interference. Thanks to the 6.5 per cent real increase in 1989, wages can now be frozen and the financial rehabilitation of banks with "sound" money — not printing of new currency — will enable the economy to operate successfully, not just barely survive as to now, Markovic told the delegates. In addition, the government has earmarked \$150 million for social welfare programmes in order to cushion the first effects of the reform, while the freezing of prices of raw materials, semi-manufactures and energy will give enterprises a breathing space in which the shift to market-based operations. If these measures are implemented, the inflation rate will fall to 13 per cent by the end of 1990, Markovic said.

Since enterprises can now be established in all forms known in market economies, and a capital and securities market has been set up, it is evident that the

Markovic government has carried out the deregulation it promised and freed the economy from administrative and political controls. This means that, at least where the economy is concerned, Yugoslavia has gone further than just reform — it has laid the foundations of completely new economic system.

But one major problem — social ownership — has been dealt with only partially. Under a new law, socially-owned enterprises can be sold and become private or mixed firms with Yugoslav or foreign co-owners. The thorniest issue that remains in this area is how to determine exactly who holds the title to socially-owned property.

The implementation of the programme will not be easy in view of the political divisions which exist in this multinational federal state. Though the least developed regions will be hardest hit by the new measures, only the biggest republic — Serbia — and one of its two provinces — Vojvodina — refused to approve the

programme. Even Kosovo, Serbia's southern province which has long been Yugoslavia's most serious economic and political problem, endorsed the programme and accepted the new legislation that accompanies it.

Along with the programme, the Markovic government proposed 30 new laws and regulations which will secure its consistent implementation. The government has also started the procedure for constitutional amendments which are to broaden its powers and enable it to pursue macroeconomic policy without interference.

The government's confidence that its programme is the best way to pull the country out of the longstanding crisis and its resolve to implement it fully was evident also during the adoption of the laws in the assembly. Those laws which were not passed in regular procedure, which requires the consensus of all eight federal units, were adopted as stop gap measures which will stay in force for six months. The government believes that this will be enough

time for economy to adapt to the new market-based conditions. Whether the constitutional amendments as proposed by the government will be adopted or not will be known by the end of February. Thus far, only the republic of Slovenia has come out against the proposed changes to the constitution.

Despite Slovenia's opposition to the constitutional changes and Serbia's to the freeze on wages and prices of raw materials, semi-manufactures, the 23 million Yugoslavs tired of unsuccessful attempts to deal with the crisis — pin their hopes on the Markovic programme. Doubtless a radical political reform will be carried out alongside the economic, signifying the end of the one-party monopoly. The party leadership too is aware of this, as testified by the observation at the recent LCY Central Committee plenum that the future of the party, not the country, depends on the upcoming 14th LCY Congress — Tanjug features.

684 tentatives de suicide dans le royaume en 1986

"Le Jordanien est en situation d'attente"

De 1984 à 1986, le nombre de tentatives de suicide est passé de 387 à 524. C'est ce que révèle une enquête, à paraître dans les mois prochains, menée par un psychiatre d'Amman. Selon le Dr. Ahmad Khalaf (*), les jeunes et les femmes figurent parmi

les populations les plus sensibles. Il explique au "Jourdain" comment la situation de non-paix et la fragilisation de la structure familiale dans le royaume permettent de comprendre une telle évolution.



Dr. Ahmad Khalaf: "Les jeunes femmes (...) et violent impuissant le plus grand nombre de victimes."

Le Jourdain: Pourquoi votre étude ne paraît-elle que sur la période 1984-1986?

Dr. Ahmad Khalaf: Ce sont les seules statistiques qui ont été mises à ma disposition. Il s'agit des rapports, que j'ai compilés, que le Département de la Santé Publique (PSD) sur la criminalité dans le royaume.

Le suicide représentant déjà 3,5% des crimes recensés.

Un appel au secours

L.J.: Ces statistiques indiquent également que les "vrais" suicides sont très minoritaires...

Dr. A.K.: Dans la plupart des cas en effet, la mort n'est pas l'objectif recherché. C'est un appel au secours, qui est lancé. Les moyens utilisés le prouvent. En 1986, 68% des tentatives de suicide étaient dues à l'absorption de médicaments. Le recours aux insecticides arrivait loin derrière, et bien avant l'utilisation des armes tranchantes, des armes à feu ou le recours à la pendaison, plus souvent mortels. Il apparaît d'ailleurs que bon nombre de décès interviennent plus par ignorance des effets des barbituriques que par décision irrévocable de s'octroyer la vie.

L.J.: Comment vous est venue l'idée d'une recherche exclusivement consacrée à ce phénomène?

Dr. A.K.: Les rapports du PSD permettent d'évaluer l'incidence des suicides sur le taux de criminalité en Jordanie. Il me paraissait utile, pour comprendre le fonctionnement de notre société, d'y consacrer une étude spécifique. D'autant qu'il n'a jamais été entrepris.

L.J.: A défaut de chiffres alarmants, votre étude révèle que le taux de suicide va croissant dans le pays, si l'on en croit les extraits que récemment publiés le quotidien "Al-Jumhuriya".

Dr. A.K.: C'est exact. Comparé à celui des Etats-Unis, où chaque année près de 28.000 personnes se donnent la mort, le taux de suicide en Jordanie reste faible, grâce à Dieu. Mais on constate chez nous qu'il est en hausse. En 1984, 387 tentatives de suicide ont été enregistrées, dont 35 ont entraîné la mort. En 1985, ces chiffres atteignaient respectivement 573 et 51. En 1986, ils étaient de 524 et 31. Une légère baisse, qui n'a rien de significatif, à mon avis. Il y a 3 ans,

L.J.: Avez-vous constaté des "particularités" dans le suicide en Jordanie?

Dr. A.K.: Non, si l'on considère les classes d'âge. Comme partout le monde, ce sont les jeunes qui constituent le groupe le plus sensible. En 1986, plus de 60% des tentatives et des suicides ont été le fait d'hommes et de femmes âgés de 18 à 27 ans. Je ferais la même remarque en ce qui concerne les origines géographiques et les situations personnelles. Toujours en 1986, plus de 40% des cas ont été recensés à Amman, le plus souvent dans les quartiers périphériques, où s'entasse une population pauvre et déracinée par l'exode rural. Vient ensuite les agglomérations comme Irbid ou Zarqa, le gouverneur-

at de Balqa, loin devant les régions désolées. Si l'on se penche sur les situations personnelles, on constate que 321 des 524 cas concernent des célibataires et 162, des hommes ou des femmes mariés. Je réponds par contre oui à votre question, si l'on considère que les femmes représentent 38% des cas de suicides. C'est une constante pendant les trois années, sur lesquelles porte mon étude.

L.J.: Comment interprétez-vous ce dernier chiffre?

Dr. A.K.: Il faut revenir d'abord aux mécanismes, qui poussent un individu à commettre un suicide, ou, au moins, une tentative de suicide. L'un des facteurs majeurs est bien évidemment la dépression et une profonde anxiété. C'est un mal, qui ronge peu à peu la confiance d'un individu. Or, chez nous, l'individu est d'abord pressenti d'un groupe. Il lui est donc difficile de donner libre cours à ses particularités, à son originalité. En outre, la Jordanie est traversée par les autres, il rencontre des "ego démesurés", mais rarement un "ego social", qui le reconnaît et l'admire tel qu'il est. D'où, en situation de danger, de crise, l'absence quasi totale de soutien. La liste des motifs est beaucoup trop longue, comparée à celle des droits. C'est stressant pour les jeunes, en quête d'expériences, et principalement pour les jeunes femmes, plus expressives que l'homme oriental et qui se voit imposer le plus grand nombre de compromis.

L.J.: Peut-on parler également de conflit de générations?

Dr. A.K.: Nous n'assistons pas, à

proprement parler à un tel phénomène. La structure familiale reste solide, ce qui explique à mon avis que le taux jordanien de suicide demeure si faible par rapport à l'Occident, par exemple. Mais on assiste néanmoins à une fragilisation des rapports parents-enfants, qu'illustre l'absence de plus en plus patente de langage commun.

L.J.: Pour quelles raisons?

Dr. A.K.: Principalement à cause du progrès technologique, et surtout de ses conséquences. En tant que pays en voie de développement, nous avons été touchés très brutalement par les nouveaux moyens de communication, par exemple. Brutalité, qui exige une adaptation extrêmement rapide. Or, les "ascenseurs" ont du mal à franchir le cap. Ils ont transmis à leurs enfants des idées et une très forte spiritualité. Ils ont profané des idéaux de sacrifice, d'entraide, d'amour, qu'ils n'ont plus les moyens, notamment le temps, de mettre en application. Les jeunes les regardent et ne comprennent plus. Ils vivent au rythme de la télé, des magazines, que les parents négligent. Il en résulte une incompréhension mutuelle, plutôt inquiétante, vu que les problèmes familiaux figurent parmi les premières causes de suicide.

Nous vivons sur une frontière

L.J.: La religion reste pourtant un ciment solide...

Dr. A.K.: Je suis heureux que la Jordanie soit un pays de croyants. Comme le suggère un jour un

psychiatre dans le "Times", les gens devraient se rendre plus souvent à l'église pour lutter contre l'anxiété.

L.J.: Les Jordanien n'en sont pas moins anglophiles, à en croire votre étude...

Dr. A.K.: L'importance du suicide en Jordanie tient à mon avis à la situation géo-politique. Depuis le début du siècle, nous sommes sous pressions politiques, économiques et sociales dues aux guerres du Proche-Orient. Nous ne vivons pas dans un pays mais sur une frontière. Nous ne sommes pas installés en paix, comme nous devrions l'être, mais sur une ligne de front. Tout individu, placé dans un tel contexte est anxieux. Par définition. Le Jordanien est constamment en situation d'attente, d'observation, sans certitude du lendemain.

L.J.: Les jeunes en sont donc les premières victimes?

Dr. A.K.: Evidemment. Face aux dangers que cette situation fait peser sur la famille, il leur reste l'école, pour entrer dans la vie sociale. Ils y vont de plus en plus angoissés. D'où un taux de suicide élevé chez les étudiants. Il est d'ailleurs intéressant de noter que la saison, au cours de laquelle se produit le plus grand nombre de suicides, est l'été. C'est la période de résultats des examens et des concours...

23 ans de "Cercle du jeudi"

Francophones entre elles

Le français, oui, mais à condition de se remuer les meninges. Depuis la fin des années soixante, une quinzaine de femmes jordaniennes francophones se réunissent chaque jeudi à Amman pendant deux heures. Autour d'un thé, certes. Mais pour discuter philosophie, littérature...

Le plupart d'entre elles se sont rencontrées au centre culturel français d'Amman. Non pour y prendre des cours mais pour se réunir, entre francophones, chaque jeudi matin. Ainsi est né, en 1967, le "Cercle du jeudi". Elles étaient alors sept ou huit. Pas plus. «Nous nous sommes rencontrées, pour l'avoir appris, qui au Centre, qui à Beyrouth», souligne l'une d'elles. Depuis à Paris, telle la doyenne du groupe, d'ici fait études à la Sorbonne dans les années 1950, se souvient-elle dans un français irréprochable.

A la fin des années soixante, elles se retrouvaient à la bibliothèque du Centre. Objet des réunions: pratiquer le français, certes, mais en discutant philosophie, littérature, musique. «Pour se joindre à moi, il fallait un bon niveau de langue, car nous demandions aux participantes d'être capables de présenter des livres, de préparer des exposés», rappelle l'une des fondatrices.

Peu à peu, le cercle s'est élargi. «Au bout de deux ou trois ans, nous étions une quinzaine. On a quitté les locaux du CCF pour se réunir chez l'une ou chez l'autre». Vingt-trois ans plus tard, elles sont toujours fidèles au rendez-vous. Rejointes par quelques femmes françaises, le jeudi, de 11h00 à 13h00, «il n'y a jamais eu d'interruption. On s'arrête trois mois

pendant les vacances d'été, c'est tout», assure l'une d'elles. Les raisons d'une telle assiduité, il faut sans doute les chercher dans l'attente visible qui les lie, mais aussi dans l'exigence permanente de se retrouver pour débattre de sujets, sinon de problèmes pour le moins consistants. «Nous avons toujours préféré la qualité à la quantité», assure la doyenne du groupe.

«On a parlé de tout, assure une autre Ionesco, Yourcenar... Les femmes célèbres dans le monde... On lit et on débat des livres qui sortent en France, bien que nous ayons souvent du mal à nous les procurer. Nous sommes parfois obligées de traduire des livres anglais ou arabes. Le plus important, c'est l'exercice intellectuel que ça représente et qui nous permet de rester en contact avec ce qui se passe dans le monde. Exercice d'autant plus important, que la plupart d'entre nous sont mariées et sans profession».

Petite entorse à la "règle", la réunion de jeudi dernier était consacrée... au macabre. Une réunion, en forme de mini-conférence, animée par une Française de passage à Amman, ancienne employée de chez Cory et Rubinstein, et qui s'est terminée en chanson. L'invitée du jour, il est vrai, fut aussi cantatrice.

A.R.

482 km/h pour le TGV français

A portée, la Corée du Sud

Le Train à grande vitesse (TGV) français, qui a récemment établi un nouveau record absolu de vitesse, à 482 km/h, est candidat à l'équipement de la Corée du Sud en liaisons ferroviaires ultra-rapides. Face à lui, deux concurrents occidentaux allemands et un japonais. Le choix de Séoul sera annoncé avant l'été.



Record de vitesse absolu pour le TGV Atlantique: 482 km/h.

Le président sud-coréen, Roh Tae-Woo, a roulé le 2 décembre dernier à bord du Train à grande vitesse (TGV), qui circule depuis 5 mois entre Paris, le Mans, Nantes, Rennes et la Bretagne. Histoire de se faire présenter le TGV Atlantique, candidat à l'équipement de son pays avant la fin du siècle.

Face à une demande croissante de transport national, la Corée du Sud a en effet décidé de donner un coup de neuf à son réseau ferroviaire. Projet du gouvernement: construire, d'une part, une ligne nouvelle à grande vitesse entre Séoul et Pusan, ville de la côte est du pays, soit 380 kilomètres de voies; d'autre part, rénover l'ancien réseau existant, long de 230 kilomètres, entre la capitale et Kangnung. Au total, un marché de près de 7 milliards de dollars, que les Coréens espèrent mener à bien pour les années 1997-1998.

Quatre concurrents se disputent les faveurs de Séoul, dont le train à sustentation magnétique, que les Allemands de l'Ouest ont baptisé "Maglev", et qui pouvait il y a encore un an faire valoir son record du monde de vitesse, avec 418 km/h. Son défaut: il nécessite une infrastructure particulièrement onéreuse. L'électro-aimant, qui le fait flotter à quelques centimètres au-dessus de la voie, ne peut se satisfaire d'un rail classique.

«Les (Inter-City-Express), autre réalisation concurrente, est également sur les rangs. Longtemps en tête des trains à grande vitesse, avec 406 km/h, il présente lui aussi un gros défaut: n'avoir jamais été véritablement éprouvé, puisqu'il n'entre en exploitation commerciale Outre-Rhin qu'en 1991.

Le Japon, principal concurrent

Le troisième matériel proposé aux Sud-Coréens est de construction nipponne. Il s'agit du "Shinkansen", qui circule depuis 1964, à 240 km/h, du nord au sud du Japon. D'une capacité de 1.285 voyageurs, il constitue sans doute le concurrent le plus sérieux du TGV.

Ce dernier a pour lui un moindre coût d'installation au kilomètre, et surtout les 300 km/h de sa nouvelle ligne Atlantique, qui en font désormais le train le plus rapide du monde. Sans compter son récent record absolu: 482 km/h. Seul train à grande vitesse actuellement exporté (en Espagne, Belgique et Grande-Bretagne), il se voit souvent reprocher sa faible capacité, qui ne dépasse pas les 1.000 passagers. Son constructeur, GEC-Alsthom, a récemment affirmé qu'il se faisait fort de construire des trains à 600 km/h, qui pourraient transporter 1.600 personnes.

Japonais font notamment valoir leurs liens commerciaux avec la Corée du Sud. Ils ont ainsi annoncé qu'ils étaient favorables à l'importation annuelle de 150.000 automobiles sud-coréennes. Et ce, pendant toute une décennie, si le "Shinkansen" était finalement retenu par Séoul.

Paris a de son côté poussé que la SNCF et GEC-Alsthom soient pris à associer les industriels sud-coréens Daewoo et Hyundai à la construction et à l'exploitation du modèle TGV le plus performant. Autrement dit, celui qui reliera Paris à Bruxelles, via Lille, à 325 km/h, dès 1993.

Bref, les Sud-Coréens ont le choix et des propositions alléchantes proviennent de tous les côtés. Rapidement cependant, Séoul a promis de mettre fin au suspense avant la fin du premier semestre de cette année.

Alain Fanjas.

Victimes des lois martiales

Qui leur rendra justice?

Depuis mi-décembre, le gouvernement de Moudar Badrane a entamé des procédures de réintégration de fonctionnaires, écartés de leurs postes sous le régime des lois martiales. Aujourd'hui plus 600 Jordanien ont déposé une demande de réhabilitation auprès du Comité national des libertés publiques.

Tout a commencé, il y a un mois et demi. Le premier ministre, Moudar Badrane, a alors pris la décision de réintégrer dans leurs fonctions six fonctionnaires. Employés de ministères, professeurs à l'université de Jordanie... ils avaient été obligés de quitter leurs postes sous le régime des lois martiales, pour raison politique.

Depuis, c'est l'avalanche. Profitant de cette mesure, des dizaines d'enseignants, salariés, dans le même cas, se sont adressés à leurs anciennes administrations pour réclamer leurs droits. D'autres, plus nombreux, se sont adressés au Comité national des libertés publiques (CNLP).

Présidé par le leader du syndicat des dentistes, Isac Khayri, et composé de juristes, avocats, écrivains... le CNLP reçoit chaque jour des dizaines de demandes de réintégrations déposées par des enseignants, des fonctionnaires, des employés... A la Maison des syndicats de Shamsiyya, siège du Comité, quelque 600 dossiers avaient été déjà déposés mercredi dernier.

Quelques jours plus tôt, le CNLP avait organisé un meeting, auquel ont participé près de 300 personnes, privées de travail.

Cette séance, animée, a permis de mettre en lumière différents aspects juridiques, humains et professionnels, auxquels le CNLP se trouve aujourd'hui confronté. Les "interdits professionnels", prononcés principalement pour cause d'idées ou d'appartenance politiques, entrent en effet dans plusieurs catégories différentes, dont le Comité doit tenir compte avant de transmettre les demandes de réintégration au Parlement.

Certaines interdictions ou expulsions ont été directement dictées par le gouverneur général militaire, au-

trement dit par le chef du gouvernement. D'autres se sont vus refoulés au moment où ils sollicitaient un poste, dans la fonction publique comme dans le secteur privé, suite aux "recommandations" des Services de renseignement.

Si dans ces deux cas de figures, les intéressés ont le plus souvent les preuves écrites de leur bannissement professionnel, il n'en va pas de même pour ceux, que les SR ont informés directement et donc oralement de l'invalidité pour eux de solliciter un emploi. Ou encore de ceux, qui, ne pouvant prouver à leur évenement l'absence d'un "certificat de bonne conduite", ont été systématiquement reconduits par les entreprises. Le statut juridique de cette dernière catégorie est le plus vague et le plus difficile.

Surtout quand ils réclament, comme le font la plupart, restitution de droit et paiement d'indemnités. Le premier ministre a certes ordonné, il y a deux semaines, aux ministères et aux administrations de réintégrer leurs ex-salariés, mais nombre de problèmes demeurent. Ainsi du droit à la promotion des réhabilités, du calcul de leurs années de service, de leurs points de retraite... Que faire, enfin, de ceux qui approchent de l'âge de la retraite et comment évaluer la responsabilité de ceux qui ont, autrefois, pris les décisions de révocation?

«Nous aurons vraisemblablement besoin de nouvelles lois pour éliminer correctement les conséquences des lois martiales», estime l'avocate Asma Khader, membre du Comité national des libertés publiques. D'autant plus vite sans doute, que les "exclus" d'attente impatients impatients du CNLP et du Parlement que justice leur soit rendue.

Suleiman Sweiss.

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Conable calls for sweeping changes in Latin America

MEXICO CITY (R) — World Bank President Barber Conable has said that restoring economic growth to Latin America after the lost decade of the 1980s required sweeping structural changes, including smaller governments.

"Except possibly in Eastern Europe, no group of nations is facing such a daunting task of reform and reconstruction," Conable said in a speech to the Regio De Mexico, a leading Mexican think tank.

He urged a rapid transition from central planning to free market policies throughout Latin America.

"We have learned from the experience of developing countries and socialist countries of Eastern Europe that excessively centralized economic management leads to inefficiencies that ultimately economic development comes to a halt," he said.

"To address these problems, governments need to reduce their size," he said, calling for deregulation of economies and divestment of state-run enterprises to private ownership.

But he stressed that reform — including sweeping cutbacks in state subsidies — should not be carried out at the expense of the region's deeply-improvised masses.

"A key issue that governments must tackle as they reconstruct their finances and reform their programmes is the protection of the poorest and the most vulnerable," Conable said.

"Subsidies on basic goods and services should be targeted to-

ward these groups. Experience has shown that it can be done effectively at a moderate cost, increasing welfare while making savings in total expenditures," he explained.

Conable, who is an official visit at the invitation of President Carlos Salinas De Gortari, praised Mexico, saying its recent economic reform could serve as an example for other Latin American countries.

The lowering of foreign trade barriers, stimulation of exports, more efficient use of domestic resources, curbs on inflation and moderating foreign debt growth were part of an overall success story, he said.

Conable told Reuters Tuesday night that the World Bank had earmarked about \$3 billion in new loans for Mexico this year. In his speech, he said \$2 billion in World Bank funds would support the reduction of Mexico's massive commercial bank debt.

'Arabs have \$400b abroad'

ABU DHABI (R) — A top United Arab Emirates (UAE) investment official, in remarks published Friday estimated that Arab investments abroad stood at \$400 billion.

"My personal estimates show Arab investments abroad are \$400 billion," Salim Al Mazroui, head of the UAE Investment Office in London, was quoted as saying by Al Bayan newspaper.

It said Mazroui, who says Arab governments and individuals should invest more in stockmarkets, made his assessment while addressing a group of Kuwait students in London.

The oil boom in late 1970s and early 1980s allowed Arab oil producers to invest in the West, mainly in stocks, bonds and real estate.

Aeroflot orders Airbus worth \$350m

TOULOUSE, France (R) — The West European consortium Airbus Industrie has said Soviet carrier Aeroflot had ordered five of its airliners in Moscow's first purchase of Western-built passenger jets.

Aeroflot said in a statement that Aeroflot had ordered five A310 twin-engine medium to long-range airliners in a deal Soviet officials said was worth \$350 million.

Alexander Aksenov, vice minister for civil aviation, told a news conference President Mikhail Gorbachev's liberalisation of Soviet society had increased demand for air travel.

"Perestroika has simplified the process of entering and leaving the country, and that has increased demand for air travel. We therefore turned to foreign planes," he said.

Aeroflot will pay hard currency for the five jets through a consortium of four banks setting up a special-purpose company that will then lease the aircraft to Aeroflot for 10 to 12 years, a senior Soviet official said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Andreotti urges fighting starvation

ROME (R) — Money saved from disarmament because of reduced tensions between East and West should be used to feed starving people in the Third World, Italy's prime minister has said. The fall of communist regimes in Eastern Europe over recent months has led to a new "climate of confidence," Giulio Andreotti told the annual meeting of the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). "As a result, the aim of sending major funds to fight hunger and poverty by using resources burnt for the arms race in the past is less a utopia than a possibility for the near future," he said at the start of the three-day session. Andreotti pledged that Italy, the fifth largest contributor to Rome-based IFAD, would encourage reduced tension and increased development aid.

Algerian oil workers form union

ALGIERS (R) — Workers in the Algerian state hydrocarbons firm Sonatrach have formed a trade union independent of the official one linked to the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), the Algerian news agency APS has said. APS said 914 of the 1,130 workers in Sonatrach's oil production department had voted to form the union because the official UGTA (Union Generale des Travailleurs Algeriens) had not cut itself off from the FLN. The UGTA was until last year the only national trade union in the country, and its directors were required to be FLN members. But after political reforms ended the FLN's 27-year-old monopoly on political life workers in several sectors of the economy began to organise independently, saying the UGTA was no longer representative. UGTA Secretary-General Tayeb Belakhdar said earlier this month the union should be independent of any political party, but its FLN links have not yet been severed.

Bronfman widens business in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Claridge Israel Inc., controlled by Canadian businessman Charles Bronfman, has agreed to invest \$16 million in an Israeli company that manufactures electronic inspection systems, Claridge announced Thursday. The transaction will give Claridge a 25 per cent stake in Optrotech, which is in Nes Ziona south of Tel Aviv, according to Jonathan Kolber, Claridge's president. "We like the management, financial situation, products and the potential," Kolber said. It was Claridge's second major investment in an Israeli high-tech firm in recent months. Last November, Claridge Israel agreed to buy 25 per cent of ECI Telecom Ltd. for \$22.4 million. ECI Telecom makes telecommunications equipment. Claridge had announced plans to invest in Israeli industries with export potential after selling its stake in the Supersol Ltd. supermarket chain for \$20.7 million last year. Claridge also has minority holdings in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, one of Israel's largest and most profitable companies, and in Luz Industries Ltd., a solar energy company.

Iran denies seeking IMF loans

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has denied reports that it asked for loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Bank to finance its post-war reconstruction. The Iranian news agency IRNA said that central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli denied a Reuters report that Iran planned to resume borrowing from the IMF and the World Bank. "Adeli told IRNA that Iran had held no talks with IMF and World Bank officials on extension of any loans or credits," the agency said in a report. Reuters has quoted a Japanese foreign ministry official as saying Adeli had told foreign ministry director-general of Middle Eastern and African affairs, Mitsuru Watanabe, that Iran had recently received a World Bank mission to discuss credits. Iran also expected an IMF delegation in January, the official had quoted Adeli as saying. President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani supports the use of foreign credit to finance major development projects.

Bush announces aid to Panama

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush Thursday announced a \$1 billion U.S. aid package for Panama aimed at reviving the country's battered economy and assisting recovery from last month's American invasion. "The economic challenges that Panama faces are great, but we will work with the people to build a prosperous democratic nation," Bush said at a news conference. His plan will provide money for housing, emergency public works, business and economic assistance, loans, guarantees and export opportunities. Only \$500 million is new money that will come from other, not-yet-identified government programmes. The balance is made up of loans, commercial credits and debt relief. Bush said Vice President Dan Quayle, who will visit Panama this weekend as part of a trip that will also take him to Honduras and Jamaica, would review details of the plan with Panamanian President Guillermo Endara.

Tokyo bonds 'outshine' Wall Street

TOKYO (AP) — The shrinking gap between U.S. and Japanese interest rates is likely to draw money from Wall Street into Japanese government bonds, financial experts say, but no large-scale repatriation of funds is expected.

Worries about Japanese funds heading home have unnerved many players in the U.S. stock and bond markets in recent weeks, especially in view of a sharp drop in share prices on the New York and Tokyo exchanges since the beginning of the year.

Complicating the picture has been civil strife in the Soviet Union, political upheaval in Eastern Europe and doubts about the outcome of Japanese national elections next month.

With instability all around and the U.S.-Japan interest rate differential down to about two percentage points, broker Joan Anway of W.I. Carr financial firm's Tokyo office says Japanese government bonds have become "the most attractive paper on earth."

The yield on benchmark 10-year Japanese government bonds has approached seven per cent in recent days. (The yield on U.S. government 1-year bonds is around 8.5 per cent.)

For Japanese investors, the ability to obtain such a high return without risk "is bound to be remarkably attractive," said Seiichi Kaneko, manager of research in the international asset management division of Asahi Mutual Life.

Nevertheless, Kaneko predicted, "there won't be any massive exodus of money from the U.S. over the course of the year."

Some stock portfolio managers may "liquidate some of their U.S. holdings to realise currency gains to offset recent losses in the Tokyo market," he said.

But, he added, after the new Japanese fiscal year starts April 1, those managers probably will reinvest in the United States.

But if Japanese government bonds continue to hover at about seven per cent, investment in U.S. treasury bonds will be hurt at the time of the next auction, expected early in February, he said.

Kozo Nogami, manager of the international securities investment for the largest Japanese insurer, Nippon Life, said his firm still has a "strong interest" in U.S. treasury bonds.

"We haven't sold any U.S. bonds lately... and we'll continue to buy," he said.

However, Nogami added, with Japanese interest rates rising, "Japanese bonds are fairly attractive," especially as they carry no currency exchange risk for Japanese investors.

I DB announces loans

JEDDAH (AP) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has announced new loans to the tune of \$151.5 million to member states to finance development projects and foreign trade operations.

The new finances included, among others, \$17 million to Egypt to purchase electricity equipment for a water purification plant west of Cairo, \$12 million to Bangladesh to establish a factory for the production of good quality paper for banknotes and security documents, and \$20 million to Libya to finance the import of intermediary goods.

The Jeddah-based IDB, financial arm of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), was established in 1975 and has since extended more than \$10 billion in the form of soft loans, technical assistance and grants.

The bank conducts operations according to Islamic laws, which means it charges no interest. The interest-free loans are repaid in periods ranging between 10 and 25 years with grace periods of two to five years.

The bank also extends non-refundable grants to Muslim communities living in non-member states.

Over the past six months, the bank extended loans amounting to more than \$380 million for many of the OIC member states.

The loan package includes a further \$15 million for Bangladesh to finance the construction of rural health centres and to import cement and raw cotton.

Pakistan will obtain \$15 million and South Yemen \$10 million to finance imports of crude oil while Turkey will get \$10 million to import scrap metal.

The bank encourages foreign trade operations with OIC member states to enhance inter-Islamic trade.

The bank will furnish Algeria with \$16.5 million to finance imports of raw cotton, palm oil and wood products and will extend \$3 million to the Maldives to modernise its airport.

The bank approved a grant of \$180,000 to Muslims in Uttar Pradesh and another of \$160,000 to Muslims in Kerala to build girls schools in the two Indian states.

The two grants are part of a five-year programme to give Muslims in India \$30 million to build schools, hospitals, training institutes and other facilities. The programme started in 1987.

Japanese inflation soars

TOKYO (R) — Japanese inflation soared to its highest level in five years in 1989 as a politically unpopular sales tax pushed up prices.

The Economic Planning Agency said Friday that consumer prices jumped 2.3 per cent last year, after rising a meagre 0.7 per cent in 1988.

Although the increase was the biggest since 1984, it was still small compared to those of many other nations, including the United States where inflation is about 4 1/2 per cent.

The agency blamed much of the increase on the introduction last April of a three per cent consumption tax that the government said was needed to help pay for Japan's rapidly ageing society.

"Except for that and volatile movements in the prices of fresh vegetables, consumer prices were basically stable last year," an agency official told reporters.

The sharp rise in retail prices is bad news for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which rammed the sales tax through parliament over opposition objections and now faces a crucial general election next month.

The sales tax, along with a series of political scandals and unpopular liberalisation of Japan's agriculture markets, already cost the conservative LDP control of parliament's less powerful upper house in elections last July.

Opposition parties have vowed to do away with the consumption tax if they gain power in the lower house in the elections Feb. 18.

Rising inflation is also pushing up interest rates.

Japanese banks announced Friday that they would raise mortgage interest rates by a full percentage point March 1, to 7.5 per cent. That's the highest rate since the current system of "floating" mortgage rates was introduced in mid-1983.

Although unpopular, higher mortgage rates are not expected to have as big a political impact in savings-conscious Japan as in other countries, economists said.

Economists reckon that the sales tax pushed up consumer prices by 1.2 per cent last year.

On the surface, the outlook for inflation looks better this year as the one-time price impact of the sales tax disappears from the statistics.

But on an underlying basis, after factoring out the effect of the sales tax, inflation looks set to rise this year as the weak yen pushes up prices of imports, economists said. The yen has dropped nearly 15 per cent against the dollar over the past year.

Soichi Enko, an economist at Bank of Tokyo, estimates that consumer price inflation this year will be just under two per cent. "We will probably see some rise in underlying inflation," he said.

Coppola files for bankruptcy

SANTA ROSA, California (R) — Francis Ford Coppola, director of the "Godfather" and "Apocalypse Now," Thursday filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for himself and his production company, Zoetrope Productions of San Francisco.

The Zoetrope filing lists debts as \$28.9 million and assets as \$22.2 million. Coppola, listed as the sole director of Zoetrope, also filed for himself doing business as Sophia Properties and Niebum-Coppola Estate. His debts were listed as \$6 million on assets of \$3 million.

The petition was filed with the

U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Santa Rosa, 58 miles north of San Francisco and the nearest major town to Coppola's home in Rutherford, California.

A chapter of 11 filing allows a business to reorganise and get new financing under the supervision of the court while debtors are held at bay.

It is not yet clear what the filing means for the "Godfather, Part III," now in production. Coppola's lawyer, Michael Ahrens, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Zoetrope has been known to have financial problems since

Coppola's unsuccessful attempt to open a studio in Hollywood. The studio started out as American Zoetrope, founded by Coppola and fellow-director George Lucas in the late 1960s. The financial success of "The Godfather," which grossed more than \$86 million and won a 1972 Oscar for best picture, pulled the studio out of financial trouble temporarily.

After Coppola and Lucas parted ways, Coppola went on to make "Godfather, Part II," "The Conversation," and "Apocalypse Now."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, January 25, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	114.8	115.9
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	453.4	457.9
Pound Sterling	1088.6	1099.5	Dutch guilder	346.0	349.5
Deutschemark	390.0	393.9	Swedish crown	106.8	107.9
Swiss franc	440.8	445.2	Italian lira (for 100)	52.5	53.0
			Belgian franc (for 100)	186.7	188.6

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Jan. 20-24	Jan. 13-17
Daily average	JD 3,275,999	JD 3,013,334
Total volume	JD 16,379,997	JD 15,066,671
Total shares	8,990,278	8,540,448
No. of contracts	7,299	6,819

Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 7,428,756	JD 7,627,417
	(45.4%)	(50.6%)
Financial	JD 3,935,156	JD 4,037,736
	(24.1%)	(26.8%)
Service		(27.0%)
Insurance		(3.6%)
Share price index	146.8	144.2
No. of companies	72	67
Price movement (rise)	35	41
(decline)	28	17
(stable)	9	9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6595/605	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1940/50	Canadian dollar
	1.6890/97	Deutschemark
	1.9025/35	Dutch guilders
	1.4922/32	Swiss francs
	35.29/33	Belgian francs
	5.7350/400	French francs
	1255/1256	Italian lire
	143.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.1400/50	Swedish crowns
	6.5205/55	Norwegian crowns
	6.5325/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	419.75/420.25	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The market shrugged off the impact of a sharply lower overnight close on Wall Street and closed stronger on demand for gold stocks. The All Ordinaries index rose 9.5 to 1,684.8.

TOKYO — Share prices barely budged most of the afternoon despite some buying on a mild rebound in bond prices. They sagged to a lower close in modest trading. The Nikkei index closed at 36,874.07, down 95.04.

HONG KONG — Market holiday.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mixed in moderate trading after speculative buying and bargain-hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index fell 7.02 to 1,486.53.

BOMBAY — Public holiday.

FRANKFURT — Dealers shrugged off Thursday's 43-point drop in U.S. share prices. The DAX index ended 6.55 points higher at 1,794.14.

ZURICH — Shares ended off early lows in quiet trading on selected late buying interest. The SPI index slipped 4.3 points to 1,688.5.

PARIS — The CAC-40 index lost 6.48 points to 1,878.39. Attention was mainly on U.S. economic data.

LONDON — Britain unveiled a record trade gap for 1989 but investors focused instead on better-than-expected monthly data for December. At 1706 GMT the FTSE index was up 24.6 points at 2,314.5.

NEW YORK — A rise in durable goods orders indicated the economy was not as weak as some analysts thought. At 1708 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were 2.92 higher at 2,563.96.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



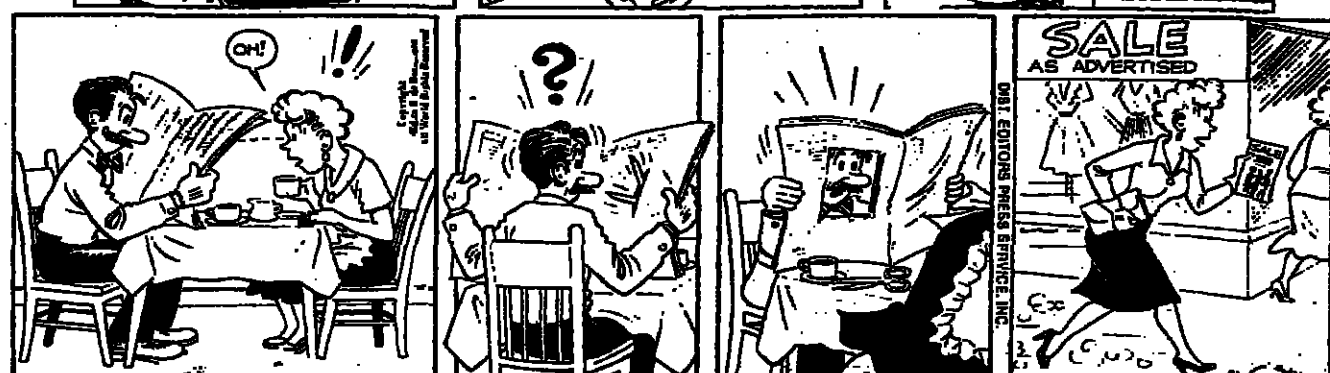
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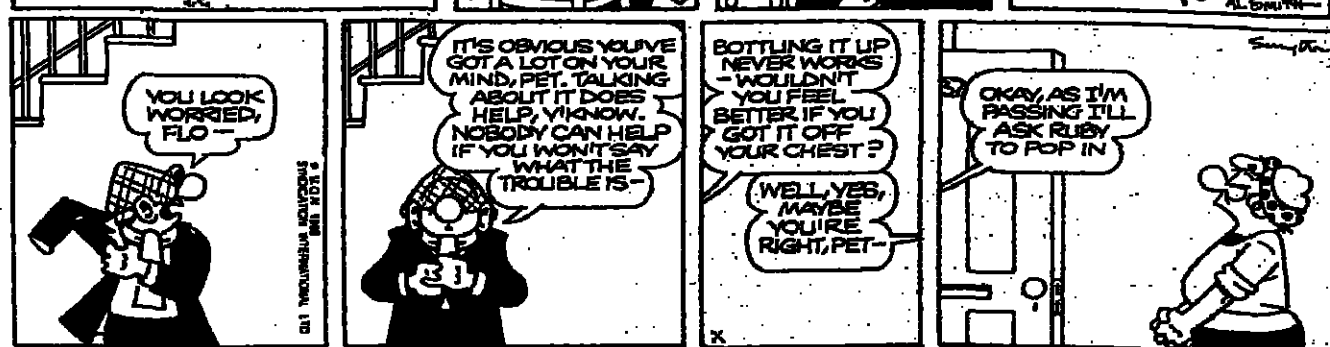
Peanuts



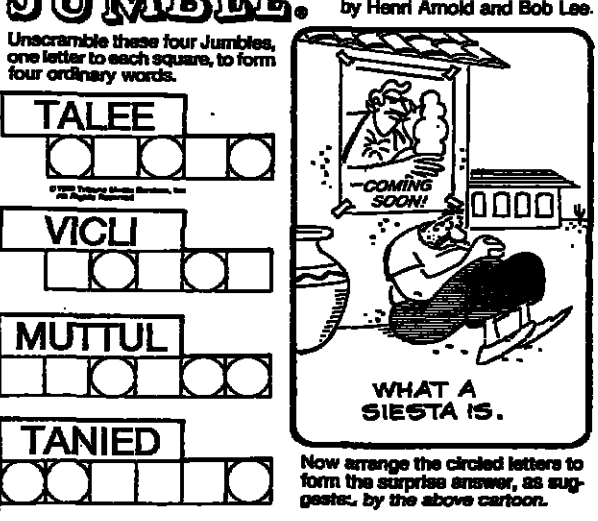
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested, by the above cartoon.
Answer: A TALE VICE MUTT TANI (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumble: FAVOR BISON WHOLLY MAGNUM
Answer: What that bashful wallflower was hoping to do with the man of her choice—GROW ON HIM

Sports

Lewis feels good about record

RALEIGH (R) — Olympic champion Carl Lewis feels so good about being made the 100 metres world record holder that he would like to go out and run even faster.

The American star had his 1988 Olympic final clocking of 9.92 seconds installed as the 100 metres record last weekend when the International Amateur Athletic Federation stripped disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson of his 1987 world record of 9.83 seconds because of admitted drug use.

"Over the years I have run very hard honestly," Lewis told Reuters in a telephone interview on Thursday from his Houston office. "I've been very consistent and I've won a lot of races, and so I'm officially own that record as a good feeling."

His goal, now, he said, is to run faster. "I do believe I have the capability still," Lewis, 28, said. Johnson had run even faster — 9.79 seconds — in defeating Lewis in the Seoul Olympics final but he lost that time and the gold medal after testing positive for steroids.

Lewis said he thought he deserved to be the record holder because he had competed within

the rules. "People, of course, are always going to say, 'look at how you go it,' but there's going to be absolutely nothing I can do with that," Lewis said.

Lewis has put together a tight schedule for 1990.

"I plan to compete in only seven or eight meets," said Lewis, adding that two probably would be in the United States and the remainder in Europe in late July and August.

His European agenda could include an attempt at the long jump world record at a high-altitude site in Sestriere, Italy, but Lewis, the two-time Olympic long jump champion, stressed that no decision had been made.

Previously, Lewis had avoided jumping at high altitude, but he said he had received offers to try and break Bob Beamon's 1968 world record at either Mexico City, where Beamon made his jump, Colorado Springs, Colorado, or Sestriere.

Lewis said he was unsure whether a 100 metres race against Johnson would come off in September, when the Jamaican-born Canadian's two-year suspension ends.

RJ participates in Malaysia air race

THE Malaysian International Air Race 1990 is due to start on Feb. 5 with the participation of 15 aircraft.

The participating planes will make compulsory stops in Paris, Bahrain, Doha, Langkawi, Singapore, Johore, Delhi, Dubai, Amman and finally fly back to Paris. Each of the 15 planes will have a crew of a pilot, co-pilot and a photographer or a journalist.

A Royal Jordanian sponsored aircraft has been especially set for this purpose. It is a Piper Aerostar named the Falcon of Jordan. The aircraft will be piloted by Captain Eric Ledger, with Rakan Nasser as a co-pilot and Mazen Fawaz as the photographer.

The Falcon of Jordan has been co-sponsored by Airbus Industry and General Electric. The Royal Jordanian subsidiary Arab Wings, the executive jet charter, will act as a back up team for maintenance.

The competing teams will set

out from Paris on Feb. 5 and fly back to the French capital on Feb. 28. Their stop in Amman will be on Feb. 24 where participants will spend three days during which they will tour historical and touristic sites including Petra and Jerash under a special programme prepared by Royal Jordanian.

World media, including major TV networks will carry out extensive coverage of the event as well as the various stops along the race's film in the cities they stop at.

By participating in this world event, Royal Jordanian aims at highlighting its role in sponsoring international sport activities and promoting Jordan's image world-wide; thus contributing to the tourism marketing of Jordan and its historical places through the coverage which the media will make of the Malaysia International Air Race and the places where the planes will make compulsory stops including Amman.

Italian workers strike over safety at WC sites

ROME (R) — Italian building workers went on strike on Thursday complaining about safety standards at World Cup sites where 12 people have died since construction work began for the June soccer finals.

A spokesman for the unions which organised the four-hour strike said the protest took place at two sites in Rome where workers were seriously injured last week.

Twelve workers have been killed in work on stadiums and ancillary projects for the World Cup, which will be staged in 12

Italian cities. Some trade unionists blame the deaths on a rush to finish improvement work before the finals.

Work at four of the 12 stadiums has been completed ahead of schedule but at other sites cranes are still in place, roads torn up and rail links incomplete.

"Too much haste is one cause of the accidents, but contractors are also ill-disposed to discuss with unions how to organise the work," said Roberto Tonini, a strike leader.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

Lendl, Edberg advance to the final

MELBOURNE (AP) — Ivan Lendl wielded his racket like a machine gun from the baseline and Stefan Edberg attacked at the net Friday as they set up a clash in the Australian Open finals.

In swift executions by different methods, defending champion Lendl and two-time former champion Edberg performed almost flawlessly in two of the most one-sided grand slam semifinals since the open era began in 1968.

Lendl passed Yannick Noah left and right when the frustrated Frenchman charged the net, and outduelled him from the baseline when Noah stayed back to win 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 in one hour, 47 minutes.

Lendl expects to use the same strategy in the final, outmanoeuvring the baseline most of the time and coming to the net on occasion to keep Edberg guessing.

"Always when Stefan and I

play, he will serve and volley and I play defense," Lendl said. "I will try to fend him off. It depends on how much impression I make on his serve. If he holds at love or 15, he can take chances on my serve."

Edberg handed sluggish fellow Swede Mats Wilander the worst defeat in his 155 grand slam matches, 6-1, 6-1, 6-2. Edberg simply had too many weapons for Wilander and put him away with merciful quickness in one hour, 22 minutes.

"I had one of those days where I almost played perfect tennis," Edberg said. "I think I played as well as I could. The key was I hit a lot of first serves today. I had great timing on my serves."

Edberg, the third seed, hit 80 per cent of first serves in and put away 39 volley winners to Wilander's one.

"After a while you feel helpless," said the eighth-seeded Wilander, who left all his fight in

his quarterfinals victory over number two Boris Becker.

"I don't think he aces me once," he said. "That's when you feel helpless, when you hit a good return and he hits a great volley. When the other guy is playing as good as Stefan, you wait for him to lay off because you don't expect him to play that good the whole match."

From start to finish, when Edberg served out the last game to love, it was the most one-sided Australian semifinals match since Wilander beat Johan Kriek in 1984 en route to his second open title.

Certainly it was a reversal of their form two years ago on the same Centre Court, when Wilander beat Edberg in the semis and went on to win his third Australian Open.

Wilander, who reached back to his old glory in beating Becker in straight sets in the quarters, could muster none of the precision and

energy against Edberg and lost to him for only the third time in nine matches on outdoor hard courts.

Wilander said he didn't experience a mental letdown or feel tired from the Becker match, but he clearly wasn't the same player. Edberg won the Australian in 1985 and 1987, Wilander in 1983, 1984 and 1988.

Lendl, a Czech who lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, clicked on 67 per cent of his first serves, drilled 36 winners past Noah and cut down on errors as the match progressed.

After making 20 errors in the first set, Lendl hit only eight in the second set and six in the third. Lendl, never broken in the three sets, broke Noah in the first game of the match and the last, and four times in between.

"He was overpowering me from the baseline," said Noah, who made only 50 per cent of his first serves.

Mary Joe not overawed by Steffi

MELBOURNE (R) — If Mary Joe Fernandez beats Steffi Graf in the women's singles final at the Australian Open on Saturday, her sister Sylvia's bad back and a half-forgotten Florida doctor will deserve a share of the credit.

Fernandez admits that had it not been for her elder sister's misfortune she might never have found her way onto a tennis court.

When Sylvia, then 14, was diagnosed as having back problems, the family doctor recommended tennis and swimming as a cure. Three-year-old Mary Joe was also taken down to the local court in Miami most days and her father Jose eventually made her a small racket to keep her amused.

While her big sister worked out on court, little Mary Joe began hitting balls against a wall. Within two years the local professional was taking an interest and a successful career was born.

Now 18, Fernandez looks more to the future than the past. Reaching her first grand slam final, she believes, could be the most significant moment of her career so far.

"It's a pretty big breakthrough for me," said the tall American, not frightened by the prospect of facing the formidable Graf, chasing a third successive Australian Open title.

"You have to forget who you're playing and pretend you're playing someone else. I'm not one to get hyper or anything."

The composed right-hander, who lost in the semifinals of the French Open last year to eventual winner Arantxa Sanchez, is ranked eleventh in the world but her performances in Australia are likely to lift her as high as seventh.

Win or lose in the final, she has already created considerable excitement among the Fernandez clan in Florida.

"She was really happy and said that all the relatives would be going over to our place to watch the final," said Fernandez.

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GENERAL MANAGER

Applicants of Jordanian Nationality are invited to apply for the key post of General Manager in the newly established "Jordan Venture Projects Corporation Ltd." (a limited liability company established in 1989 under the laws of the H.K. of Jordan, with authorised capital of JD 0.9 million).

Specific Tasks:

- 1- Formulates and recommends for Board approval the company's investment strategy, policies, procedures and documentation.
- 2- Within the Board approved investment policies and strategy, responsible for developing specific investment opportunities and monitoring progress of those investments.
- 3- Prepares an annual business plan and operating budget for Board approval.
- 4- Manages the budget, the staff, and the assets of the company.
- 5- Responsible for overall business development of the company including investment origination, services diversification, marketing and public relations.

Qualifications:

The company will provide risk capital, e.g., equity, quasi equity, conditional loans, as well as conventional debt financing, to Jordanian firms, mostly private, for technology transfer, technology adaptation and development, startups and expansions based on process and product technology new to Jordan. Foreign partners are envisaged with most investments. With this in mind, the General Manager should have the following qualifications:-

- 1- An MBA degree with a concentration in finance or marketing with a B.S. degree, preferably in engineering or a physical science.
- 2- Several years of proven experience in manufacturing, either in production, marketing, R & D, or management. Experience in investment consultancy will also be considered. Experience in a foreign private company is highly desirable.
- 3- Fluency in English and Arabic.
- 4- Demonstrated ability to work well as a peer with senior managers or owners of businesses and financial institutions.
- 5- Demonstrated analytical and interpersonal skills.
- 6- High level of motivation, energy and creative thought processes.
- 7- Ability to communicate effectively in writing.
- 8- Ability to get things done by selecting, directing and motivating others.

Salary will be negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive C.V. quoting ref (JVP) to:-

P.O. Box (950601)
Amman - Jordan.

Latest date to receive applications shall be February 07th, 1990.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHON
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 100 ♠ A85 ♠ K1064
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 100 ♠ Q95 ♠ A1072 ♠ 1054
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ 1 ♣
1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ 100 ♠ A105 ♠ Q106 ♠ 47
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ 100 ♠ Q102 ♠ KQ73 ♠ 4Q
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 100 ♠ A85 ♠ Q732 ♠ QJ6
Partner opens the bidding with three no trump. What action do you take?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 100 ♠ A105 ♠ A1062 ♠ 43
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Look for answers on Monday.

THE Daily Crossword by L. Miller

ACROSS

- 1 Turner's machine
- 2 Food thickener
- 3 — (verbally)
- 4 Noun
- 5 Noun
- 6 Starbuck's skipper
- 7 Fr. patron
- 8 Noah's store
- 9 Rajah's male
- 10 Judged
- 11 Wearing sort
- 12 Muffin
- 13 Brawl
- 14 Bible's name
- 15 Number
- 16 See eye to eye
- 17 Lion's name
- 18 Hack
- 19 Rabbit
- 20 Slaved
- 21 California
- 22 Tasty response
- 23 Decadal system name
- 24 — example
- 25 (be a model)
- 26 A likely story
- 27 Game role
- 28 Give in
- 29 Vine bottle
- 30 King and
- 31 King and
- 32 King and
- 33 Evolve
- 34 Sentry's shout
- 35 Butcher's
- 36 Vowel
- 37 A Gardner
- 38 Fed
- 39 FL bird
- 40 Ingress
- 41 Nimbus
- 42 Pee Wee

DOWN

- 1 Cheryl or Alan
- 2 Sailing word
- 3 Pitchfork
- 4 Knocout punch
- 5 Cuddly
- 6 Also
- 7 Leaves
- 8 Cartographer's
- 9 Columbo's
- 10 Wine bottle
- 11 Time and
- 12 Day
- 13 Endure
- 14 Genetic stuff
- 15 Dip
- 16 Out of line
- 17 Panper
- 18 Gollings
- 19 Gallant and
- 20 Raring to go
- 21 Fluctuate
- 22 "The Censor"
- 23 Fully open
- 24 Wedding
- 25 Huge animal
- 26 Adorn in a way
- 27 Historic AL
- 28 Lurker
- 29 Scarlet letter
- 30 Vague
- 31 Noted miler
- 32 Yeasted
- 33 Hip, singer
- 34 Head of Pt.
- 35 Yoko

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Interested parties are requested to contact on telephone no: 31-4276 & 31-6125 Aqaba. Offers in writing to be read by Post Box No: 1320, Aqaba, Jordan on or before 4.2.1990.

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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

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(Arabic)

Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

MY SISTER
(Arabic)

Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

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Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

